

FREE

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

140-15 January 17 · January 23, 2007

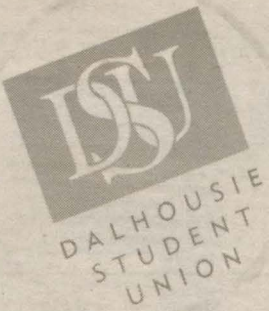
GAZETTE

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WEEKLY DISPATCH

Winter Carnival 2008 and the Munro Day Ski Trip

Wednesday January 23

- Winter Wonderland
10AM - 2PM - SUB Lobby
- Signal Hill
9PM - Grawood - \$5

Thursday January 24

- Free DAL Skate! (with your Dalcard)
11:40AM - 1PM - DAL Arena
Free hot chocolate and cookies!
- Jimmy Swift Band
9PM - TRoom
Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door
Tickets on sale every Friday night in the TRoom
Check www.dsu.ca for more ticket sales times



Friday January 25

- Snow Sculptures
1PM - Dalhousie Studley Quad
Weather Permitting
Contact dsuvpsl@dal.ca for more details and to register your team!
- Bling Bling Party
9PM - Grawood - \$2
All proceeds from this event are go to Shinerama!
Bring your bling and dance the night away!

Saturday January 26

- CHARITY BALL 2008! "A Masquerade Ball"

Tickets are \$25 and are going on sale Friday, January 11th at 6PM at the SUB Info Desk (cash and cheques only!)

Masks will be available for purchase on the night of the event. Doors open at 7PM, dinner is served at 7:30PM, followed by a live auction, live band, and our house DJ.

All proceeds from the sale of masks and the donations from the live auction will be going to this year's selected charity: Bide Awhile Animal Shelter.

Munro Day Ski Trip 2008

Friday February 1, 2008

Wentworth Valley of Snow
Tickets go on sale at the SUB Info Desk starting on Friday January 11th, at 6PM

Tickets:

- (1) \$25 - Includes lift ticket, rental, and lesson (individual provides their own transportation)
- (2) \$45 - Includes lift ticket, rental, lesson, and transportation - buses will be leaving the front of the SUB at 8:30AM sharp and leaving Wentworth at 4:30PM

We also need chaperones for this event. If you are interested, please contact Courtney Larkin (Vice President Student Life) at dsuvpsl@dal.ca

Mike Tipping
DSU President
dsupres@dal.ca / 494-1277



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THE FINE PRINT

The Gazette is the official written record of Dalhousie University since 1868 and is open to participation from all students. It is published weekly during the academic year by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society.

The Gazette is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the students of Dalhousie University, to provide an open forum for the free expression and exchange of ideas, and to stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general.

A "staff contributor" is a member of the paper defined as a person who has had three volunteer articles, or photographs of reasonable length, and/or substance published in three different issues within the current publishing year.

Views expressed in the Prof Talk feature, Overheard at Dal, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views expressed in the Streeter feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not The Gazette's writers or staff. All quotes attributed to James Munson in the Streeter feature are written, in good humour, by staff and do not necessarily represent the views of James Munson. This publication is intended for readers 18 years of age or older. The views of our writers are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University.

All students of Dalhousie University, as well as any interested parties on or off-campus, are invited to contribute to any section of the newspaper. Please contact the appropriate editor for submission guidelines, or drop by for our weekly volunteer meetings every Monday at 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the Dal SUB. The Gazette reserves the right to edit and reprint all submissions, and will not publish material deemed by its editorial board to be discriminatory, racist, sexist, homophobic or libellous. Opinions expressed in submitted letters are solely those of the authors. Editorials in The Gazette are signed and represent the opinions of the writer(s), not necessarily those of The Gazette staff, Editorial Board, publisher, or Dalhousie University.



Do you
Need
a place
to
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...write
for the
GAZETTE

Story meetings
are held every
Monday at
5:30 p.m. in
room 312
of the SUB.

We want your beef

JOHN PACKMAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Student papers tend to get three kinds of letters to the editor: the response letter, the concerned student letter and the 'you guys fucked up' letter.

The response letter is the one you see most in daily papers, replying to interesting, controversial and offensive stories.

The pissed off student letter comes from those who find themselves short one half-credit of graduating and have to stay an extra term, or from those who have found something wrong with their program or professor. They want to tell everybody.

The 'fucked up' letter, usually the longest of the three, goes into specifics about how or what the newspaper reported incorrectly or missed entirely.

The Gazette hasn't got much of anything over the past term. And I'd like to tell students, faculty and anyone who reads the paper that letters to the editor don't have to fall within the above categories to be published or be helpful.

We try to get as many voices as we can in every issue of the paper and want to hear from anyone who thinks they have something to say or ask. Whether it's a question of why all the courses you wanted to take this term conflict to fears you're wasting your time at university to problems with your landlord, we want to hear from you.

Reading an article in the Tim Hortons line, remembering it and sending in a letter does take more energy than telling the next person in line, "This article sucks." To make it easier, *The Gazette* is working to update its stuffy website so readers can comment on stories. We hope to have the site up and running in a month.

We also know that, in order for students to want to write letters, the stories need to be engaging, relevant and interesting. This term we're hoping to take a more investigative look at Dal's policies, the student union and the community in general.

We're planning on having more features in the arts section and taking a look at different clubs in the community in the sports section.

Dalhousie is a huge school. There are a lot of different voices


and interests contained in its three campuses, but no place where they all convene.

Unlike some other universities, the whole campus doesn't come together for homecoming or varsity events. The south end communities are a mix of Dal, King's and Saint Mary's students, and first-years stick to school residences.

Students study at different libraries depending on whether they are medical students, law students, engineering students, King's students or just go to the Killam.

In the next few months, we're hoping to cover as much as we can to make Dal more comprehensive to the student body. We want to try to bring student voices together, to respond to, question and criticize one another.

Any tips, ideas, comments or questions are useful and helpful. If you think *The Gazette* sucks, we want to hear it. If you don't think the university should ever let Hedley back on campus, we want to know. If you think your university degree should be written on a toilet paper roll, we want to know why.



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2008 NEW DATE

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Unions unite for city students

BETHANY HORNE
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Students in Halifax are now members of another lobby organization run by their student unions.

The student unions of Dalhousie, Mount Saint Vincent University, Saint Mary's University, Nova Scotia Community College and the Atlantic School of Theology decided to combine their efforts and represent students at the municipal level.

The student union executives formed their own group, the Halifax Student Alliance (HSA), in November after learning Mayor Peter Kelly's roundtable on violence would go ahead without any student representation, says Dal Student Union President Mike Tipping.

"They'd given out a survey on that, back in the summer when the students weren't here," says Tipping, one of the group's founders. "We thought that was very unfortunate. Here in Halifax and huge population here in Halifax and their voice needs to be heard on issues that affect them everyday."

The HSA conducted an online student survey about crime in Halifax and presented the results on the last day of the roundtable discussion in late November. The group hopes municipal policy makers will take note of their student survey when drafting new rules.

The DSU is already part of two other lobby groups, the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations (ANSSA) and the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations. But Tipping says those groups only focus on federal and provincial post-secondary education issues.

"There are issues that exist only on a municipal level that are very important to students," he says. "Things like transportation, safety and housing. There wasn't really a collective student voice on that until now."

The group hopes to draft a tenancy policy, Tipping says, because a lot of students are uninformed about the rights they have when renting their own places.

"As you probably know if you've rented in this town, it is stacked toward the landlord, and students often have a difficult time navigating that," he says. "I think there needs to be a bit more openness in the process."

"There are organizations right now that work on poverty issues and housing," says Tipping, mentioning



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Mitch Gillingwater, Tara Gault and Mike Tipping want to write a tenancy policy for students as part of the new Halifax student lobby group.

the Halifax Coalition Against Poverty and the Ecology Action Centre. "We would be focusing more on specifically student issues, although in some ways they overlap."

Mitch Gillingwater, president of the SMU Students' Association, says students make up 2.5 per cent of the city's workforce, which he says is "very significant." He says it's important students are represented on the municipal level.

There are no students, aside from union executives and council members, involved in the new lobby group. Gillingwater says members will try to attract more student volunteers, "once the organization grows." The group doesn't collect student fees and currently has a tiny budget and a 400-member Facebook group.

Engineering student Dave Cormier, a member of the Facebook group, says he would try to get involved if he could make room in his "ridiculous" schedule.

"It's one of those things, once

you get [it] going on, it will have to pick up," Cormier says. "Most students aren't really informed about a lot of things."

Keith Stevens, a third-year political science student, says he hasn't seen a particular "grassroots" call for another student lobby organization at Dal, but that it's worthwhile for student leaders to represent generally less-informed student bodies.

"Our city council doesn't really get a lot done, in my opinion, but it's worth a try to get something done," he says. "There's potential in it (the HSA). Similar organizations didn't have a lot in the beginning," he adds, comparing the new union to provincial lobby group ANSSA.

"Holy ANSSA Jr., Batman!" Stevens commented on the HSA's Facebook page.

The Halifax Student Alliance is only the second municipal student lobby group formed in Canada. Student unions of public universities in Edmonton made the same move in August.



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The Palace manager says students are fortunate to live in a city where drinks are relatively cheap.

City's drinking problem about mutual respect: Mayor

CHLOE WESTLAKE
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

With police, government officials and bar owners all taking shots at dollar drinks in the local media recently, students are left taking sides.

Mayor Peter Kelly would like to implement a minimum price for drinks that would prevent bars from selling alcohol as inexpensively as \$1 per drink.

But he says it's not his goal to make going out unaffordable for students.

"We know that [cheap drinks have] value; we know that students want to go out and have a relaxing, fun time, and we were all young once," he says.

He adds that cheap drinks should concern the whole community not just the downtown core.

"For us it's about public safety and security, it's about respect for each other, it's about trying to deal on a community perspective and it's about trying to do what is right for the municipality."

The Dome shut down its dollar drink nights following a massive brawl there last month. The popular club, known for its reduced-price student nights, briefly lost its liquor license before opting for a government-introduced \$2.50 minimum charge.

Meanwhile, other local bars such as The Palace picked up the dollar drinks trend – and the customers that came with it.

The manager of The Palace, Peter Martell, says the bar offers inexpensive drinks specifically to target students.

"They're the good customers."

Martell also says students in Halifax are fortunate to live in a city where drinks are relatively cheap. He says he was concerned that raising the cost of drinks would damage the city's bar industry. If a bar is well run, he says, its staff won't let patrons get out of control.

First-year Dalhousie commerce student Amanda Burns says cheap drinks should be allowed because it's the individual's responsibility to stay in control. She thinks December's riots would have happened even if drinks were more expensive.

"When a lot of people are somewhere, there are bound to be fights," she says.

But Const. Jeff Carr of the Halifax Regional Police says selling alcohol at such a low cost encourages over-indulgence.

"We believe that it leads to higher levels of intoxication, which leads to more problems for us."

He says most problems involve intoxicated people in their late teens or early 20s, many of them students.

City police have informed the province of their concerns in the past and did so again more explicitly after last month's high-profile brawl arrests. Carr says drunken violence is a problem that can't be pinned on any particular bar.

"It doesn't matter who's advertising [cheap drinks] – they cause a problem."

Many students feel the same way. Alma Hadzic, a second-year commerce student, says drinks should be more expensive.

"It will keep you limited once you start drinking, because really, who can stop when it's \$1 a drink?"

-With files from Katie May

Dal in Brief

N.S. negotiates new PSE deal

Student representatives will have their say before Nova Scotia universities enter a binding tuition fee contract within the next year.

The province recently began negotiating with universities to create a new agreement for post-secondary education funding in the future.

The current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), implemented three years ago without student involvement, dictates how much money N.S. gives to the province's 11 universities over three years. It also sets out annual tuition fee caps.

The MOU will expire in March, and the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations (ANSSA) is pushing for the new contract to include a tuition reduction for all students, says Executive Director Paris Meil-

leur.

The lobby group selected Dal law student Jen Bond and former DSU President Ezra Edelstein to negotiate during the confidential process on its behalf. Bond and Edelstein already met with university and government officials last term.

"Students weren't at the table last time, but they are this time," Meilleur says. "We want to make sure there's some predictability in [tuition increases]."

The current agreement says tuition cannot increase more than 3.9 per cent each year, but that freeze does not include international student fees or professional program costs. Meilleur says it's ANSSA's priority to include those student groups in a tuition cap and work out a deal to improve school services for international students.

Meilleur says that now, some

international students are paying nearly double the costs of Canadian students, "and they aren't necessarily getting double the services."

DSU and KSU work together in new policy

Student societies under the Dalhousie Student Union are in for a major overhaul next year.

The DSU's ad hoc society committee has been meeting since last term to hammer out a new policy that would change the way the union governs student groups.

If council approves the new policy when it's finished, societies involving University of King's College students would be able to apply as joint societies with the King's Students' Union (KSU) so they could have at least one executive member from Dal and one from King's.

The current policy, written in

2004 and never enforced, bans non-Dal students from executive society positions.

The public committee, currently made up of about eight students, has also unofficially decided to scrap the current alphabetized society structure (A through E levels). Instead, the DSU would organize societies based on interest categories, such as sports societies and academic societies.

Rosalie Hanlon, DSU vice-president (internal), is heading the committee under her student societies portfolio. She says re-grouping societies in this way will make them easier for students to find and join.

"Basically, it will be more intuitive to figure out what type of society you are, which will hopefully help societies," she says. "When people are looking for societies (to join) they don't necessarily think to

look under 'E' because that doesn't really mean anything to them."

As for societies that collect student fees to provide campus services (C level societies), such as CKDU and *The Gazette*, the committee plans to meet with each of them and write new constitutions on an individual basis.

Eric Snow, one of the students working on the committee, says there will still be common rules for every society.

"There's a general criteria that's going to apply to every society, but it's not going to be nearly as strict and overarching as the current one."

The committee originally hoped to finish the new policy by the end of December, but now it's aiming to draft a new society constitution before societies hold their elections in early spring.

Uni-Briefs

CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

Students protest blood donor clinics

Students may not be allowed to donate blood on university campuses if gay rights groups have their way.

Student homosexual advocacy groups at universities across Canada want to ban the Canadian Blood Services (CBS) from setting up donor clinics on their campuses if the national organization doesn't get rid of a decades-old rule that bars sexually active gay men from donating blood.

Men who have had sex with men even once have been prohibited from donating blood since the late 70s, amid rising concern about HIV/AIDS.

Joshua Ferguson, a student leader at the University of Western Ontario, called the policy "discriminatory," Carleton University's student newspaper reported.

"I think that as soon as there is a significant removal of CBS from campuses across the nation, it

won't take very long for CBS to go to Health Canada and say we have to do something about this, and then Health Canada will be forced to make a change for the policy," said the director of Western's Standing Against Queer Discrimination group.

The students' association at Carleton already banned the CBS from campus because of the policy, but officials at York University in Toronto told *The Charlatan* the school has no plans to ban blood clinics because they benefit the community.

Simon Fraser students push for spring break

Students at Simon Fraser University are calling on the administration to give them a weeklong break from classes each February, following the school's decision to rearrange course schedules during the 2010 Olympic Games.

Unlike most other universities in Canada, Simon Fraser does not currently offer a reading week. Students do not get a break from

classes in the spring until the Easter holiday.

The student senate asked the university to let students take a week off after it discovered the school already agreed to shut down for two weeks in honour of the international sports competition, to be held in Vancouver two years from now.

"If there's support from the administration, which there is, and there's definitely support from students, and if there's support from faculty as well, we can probably get a reading break in place by the end of the year," student senator Derrick Harder told *The Peak*.

New clickers may cause trouble at McGill

Students at McGill University are using new gadgets to generate instant quiz scores and participate anonymously in class.

This term, professors of large science and engineering classes handed out roughly 4,400 'clickers' to their students. The electronic devices enable students to select

an answer to a question and create a table of results by pointing the clicker at the prof's computer.

Each device is linked to a student's identification number and students will have to pay a \$50 replacement fee if it is lost or stolen.

While some school officials told *The McGill Daily* the clickers allow students to get actively involved in their courses and reduce class participation pressure, other faculty members are concerned students and teachers will use the devices improperly.

Students could potentially commit academic dishonesty offences by lending their clickers to friends, the newspaper reported after speaking with project manager Adam Finkelstein.

"The last thing we want to do is create an environment where these things are seen as some sort of evil device that's used to test students in class. That isn't what these are designed for," Finkelstein said.

Sources: *The Charlatan*; *The Peak*; *The McGill Daily*

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

No more hard liquor at Harvard

Harvard officials are trying to control student alcohol consumption by banning "hard liquor" at campus events.

Last month, school administration proposed a new policy that would prohibit campus parties from serving heavily concentrated alcohol, except at special formal events, and would require campus events to be approved three weeks beforehand.

The policy change comes after the school forced a campus organization to stop using its grant money to pay for alcohol.

Dean of Residential Life Suzy M. Nelson wrote in an e-mail to *The Harvard Crimson* that "hard alcohol is fraught with concerns" because it is "more concentrated and easier to get more alcohol in a smaller quantity of liquid."

Source: *The Harvard Crimson*

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Come to the next Gazette

contributor meeting:

Monday, January 21st @

5:30 p.m.

in room 312 of the SUB

Sociable student starts news sharing site

KATIE MAY
NEWS EDITOR

Luke Acker was one year away from a Dalhousie management degree when he went broke, dropped out and started a citywide marketing campaign to keep Halifax students informed about university life.

The 21-year-old was in his second year at Dal when he first considered the idea of a student-based website — one that would gather interesting news from Halifax universities and put it all in the same convenient spot. But he didn't imagine he could get the idea off the ground.

After his Nova Scotia student loans didn't come through this year and he couldn't pay for his final year of university, he decided to take a break from school and start up his own website to stay in touch with student issues.

"I never thought I'd be the one to do it," he says. "I didn't know the first thing about it."

Soci-able.ca was born in late November as a way to bring campus newspapers together. The website, designed by one of Acker's family members, features links to news stories he and his team of family and friends find relevant to students. The site posted updates about the faculty strike at Acadia University last term and actively covered a provincial



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

"The more student alliances we have, the better. And if we can do it through news, we'll do it that way," Luke Acker says.

student loan forum at Dal in November.

"The more student alliances we have, the better. And if we can do it through news, we'll do it that way," he says. "It's such an oddball thing to do."

The site got roughly 38,000 hits in its first month of operation. While

some of those were just from Acker making sure the site was working properly, he says it's more popular than he expected.

Acker balances running the website with working at his full-time marketing job, saving money to finish his degree next year. He advertises by plastering chalk drawings

and sticky notes around Dal, King's, Mount Saint Vincent, St. Mary's, and Nova Scotia College of Art and Design.

He says most of his readership currently comes from St. Mary's students.

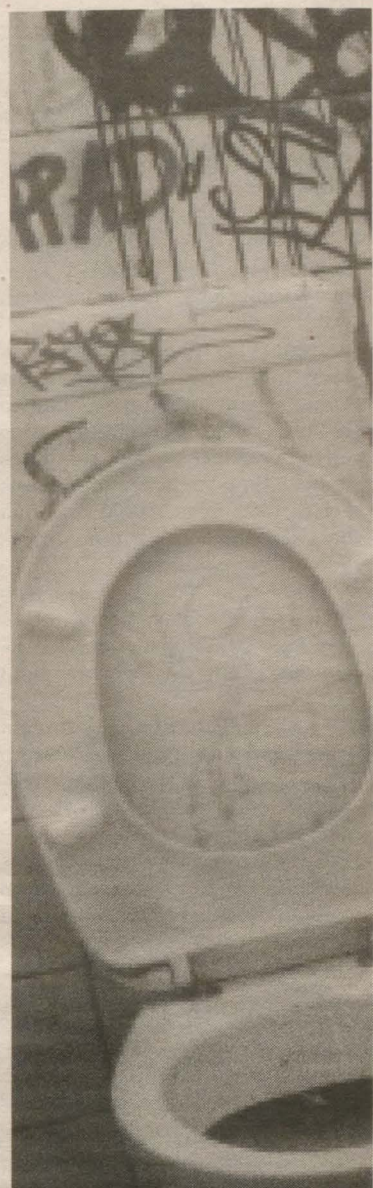
With only the \$26 monthly web hosting fee, sidewalk chalk and Post-Its to pay for, it's a pretty cheap gig. But Acker's not making any money with the site. He hasn't yet started selling advertising space and he says he refuses to include campus gossip and "fluff" pieces on his site, which could generate widespread interest among students.

"It's been a bit of a loss," says Acker. "I don't want to become the Perez Hilton of university sites," he adds, referring to the popular celebrity cyber-commentator.

Acker plans to sell ads on the site and eventually make a profit from it, but for now he's concentrating on researching campus news and passing it on to students with weekly updates.

He says he wants to give students a hub of Maritime university information similar to the Ontario university news covered in Maclean's magazine.

"Marketing to students is one of the most difficult things to do," he says. "Everyone wants the student dollar in Halifax."



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Follow the green

JOHN HILLMAN
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

It's official: we're all doomed. During the holidays I actually believed otherwise. The year-long drama that was the 'green' issue seemed to have finally come to a nice, tidy conclusion. Al Gore won the Nobel Peace Prize and the world gathered together in Bali to chart out a new, 'greener' course for humankind. Even NBC's "Green Week" showed us that it was possible to awkwardly tack green themes onto previously completed scripts.

An *Inconvenient Truth* vanquished global warming once and for all. The near record levels of snow I had to shovel out of my driveway proved it. It was exactly the sort of Hollywood ending that everyone had waited for. All we needed to complete the picture was a freeze frame of Gore accepting his medal and a rousing rendition of "We Are the World" to play as the credits rolled.

I first noticed something wrong with this fairy-tale finish while enjoying a relaxing evening at home after Christmas. A commercial for some appliance company appeared on television. The basic message was "buy our products or massive tornadoes will ravage the earth."

Needless to say, I was troubled by the ad. Until then, I was unaware that my frequent microwave use might be causing dangerous weather patterns. But Wikipedia does not cite heating up Hot Pockets among the usual causes of tornados.

It was then that a horrible possibility dawned on me. Because global warming had become the theme of the year, it apparently justified any fear-mongering theory that doomed the earth to meteorological disaster.

Perhaps activists bringing attention to causes like global warming need to be zealous to get the job done. But there are still some who haven't yet accepted the divine word of Gore.

A ruling last October by London's High Court argued that *An Inconvenient Truth* contained nine major scientific errors. British students going back to school after Christmas will be subjected to disclaimers whenever the film is shown in their classrooms.

In addition to these flaws, the judge claimed there is no proven connection between global warming and the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.



WIKIPEDIA

The global warming craze brought renewed fame to former Vice-President Al Gore.

But what other than climate change could possibly explain the flooding of a city with poorly constructed hurricane defenses that lies, on average, eight feet below sea level? Floods have never ravaged New Orleans before, except in 1849, 1882, 1909, 1915, 1947, 1965, and 1995.

New champions are rising to bring attention to the threat of global warming. Major corporations are helping us ease our guilty minds. Loblaws' executive chair Galen Weston Jr. informs us in his commercials that by taking simple, everyday steps, we can help save the environment. And I'm sure he doesn't mind profiting from customers paying extra for 'organic' food and purchasing new, green-friendly grocery bags at a dollar a piece.

We should expect to see more eco-heroes like Weston in the new year. Businesspeople, politicians and celebrities will all likely discover the

joy of taking eco-friendly stances. They will all do it in the public eye, of course, to better inspire the majority of the Canadian population who reportedly said they would sacrifice a fast-growing economy to reduce global warming. It can't be bad for these activists' popularity, either.

Like it or not, the next round of the green war is about to begin. Though it has been bitterly cold for most of the winter, we average citizens must remain ready to blame the weather on global warming the minute we are able to take off our ski masks.

'Green' causes are popular and profitable, so it is apparently morally wrong to question them in any way. Only through blind acceptance and good faith can we hope to support large companies, bring hypocritical political parties to power and help celebrities win Oscars and look cool. Hopefully, we'll also find time to actually save the planet.



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

If it ain't worth telling the whole class, it ain't worth saying at all.

Etiquette enforcers

CHRIS METLER
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

I implore everyone to start incorporating etiquette lessons into their daily routines. Nothing makes me happier than overhearing a fellow student on campus brag about enforcing politeness. Here are some lessons you can use. Get physical if you must.

Class whisperers

These jerks presume they are smarter than their instructor and the rest of the class. In reality, they are morons and hypocrites. They show up to class to get their names on the attendance sheet and then brazenly criticize the entire lecture under their breath to an audience of none. They seem to think their countless years of absolutely no devoted study are just so much more valuable than what they might be learning if they paid attention. Why even come in the first place? At least everyone else is there to learn something.

The solution? Have no shame in telling these pretentious blowhards to shut up. It's not like they're going to do anything about it, like challenge you in a shouting match. Chances are they will get red in the face for actually being called out on their rudeness. And you get to look like you mean business.

In-house neighbours

If you've had the worst luck of the draw, these goofs lives within the paper-thin walls of your house, be it above, under or beside you. They will predictably listen to terrible music loudly and have obnoxious friends. They also confuse bass for volume and can't seem to differentiate between the two when being asked to turn it down at 3 a.m.

Knocking and asking them to be quiet only works a few times, so have some fun. Call the cops on them sometime. I'm willing to bet they are only young, drunken fools who might not listen to you, but will listen to a \$125 noise fine.

Stacks chatters

These menaces think that, even if they're in the library stacks, the one place clearly set aside for absolute quiet, it's O.K. to have a conversation with the person behind them. Why do they even bother feigning the courtesy of lowering their voice? They may as well just talk at full volume since everyone can hear them anyway.

Much like in dealing with the class whisperers, just show some backbone with stacks chatters. These tiresome court jesters are in the wrong, so you have nothing to feel badly about. If they do try to challenge you, just politely remove their books and bags for them. That will send a clear message. Chances are you'll get support from other annoyed students.

January '08 Career Skills Events

Highlighting International Experience January 22 - 2:30-4:00 (SUB, Room 224)

Networking for Net Worth: From Class to Career January 24 - 5:15-6:45 (McCain)

Getting Employers' Attention Workshop January 29 - 6:00-7:30 (Shirreff Hall Study Lounge)

On Campus Recruiting

Statistics Canada (esp. Computer Science '08) January 23 - 3:00-5:00 (Comp Sci Room 430)

Correctional Service of Canada January 24 - 3:00-5:00 (SUB, Room 307)

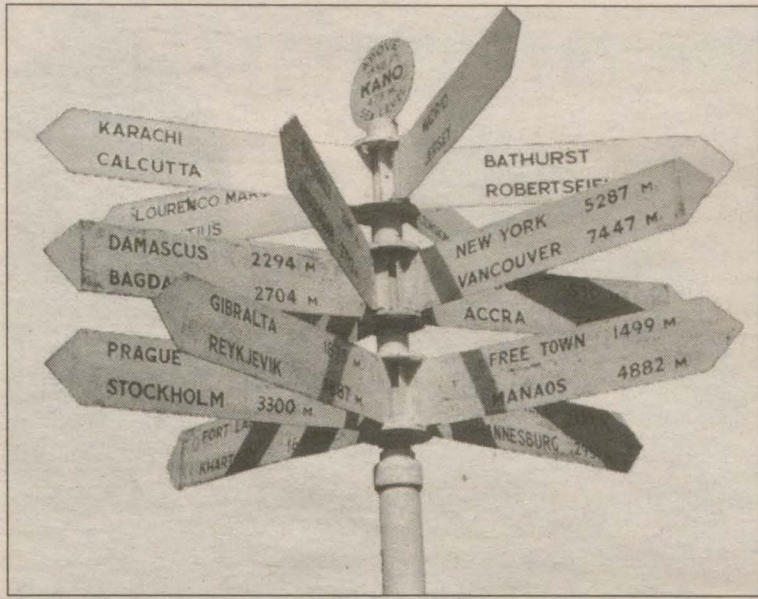
For details and registration see the Career Calendar at www.dal.ca/csc

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career.services@dal.ca
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Don't know where to go in life? University is a map, not a stop sign.

University shouldn't be a scapegoat for growing pains

JAMES MUNSON
OPINIONS EDITOR

With four months to go until my graduation, it's harder for me to see eye to eye with close friends who decide to quit university. Whether they say it's just a break to figure things out or an outright rejection of academic life, quitting isn't the best way to deal with the growing pains of adulthood.

My grandmother recently went on a tirade against my brother leaving school. She said taking a year off from university is no way to start life. Her comment stopped me dead in my tracks. Every time a friend of mine decided to quit school, there was no talk of this being the beginning of their lives. I found their complaints to be too short-sighted. They seemed to focus on solving their confusion as quickly as possible.

I used to be much more sympathetic. I dropped out of Mount Allison University four years ago. I took a year off to work and then did a year at the University of Ottawa. The following year, I transferred to Dalhousie. My first three years of university were pretty half-assed. I didn't feel inspired or motivated by school or its promises of personal enlightenment. When the subject of university was brought up at home, conversations could easily get out of hand.

Then sometime in the last year, everything seemed to change. School didn't seem like a grudging routine anymore. I thought harder about what I needed to do for the rest of my life, and suddenly university didn't seem like such a daunting thing after all.

My grandmother's maxim rang true because it was a completely different perspective than the one adopted by people dropping out of school. Instead of focusing on how

you feel today, it suggested a future to aim for. It suggested that that future begins now.

As we acquire more responsibility and skills, many of us might realize we need to sustain ourselves for the rest of our lives. One day you'll look in the mirror and no longer see yourself as an accumulation of all the experiences you've lived thus far. What you'll be looking at is the engine that will carry you through the rest of your life.

It's more than a question of money. What's truly challenging about university is that you need to find passions and challenges that can sustain your mind and soul until the day you die. Every life requires something to work for and some aim to be achieved.

When I dropped out, I pictured university as the first small step to an uneventful and very bland career. I obsessed about it until I finally stopped going to class. I thought university was a roadblock to what I really wanted to do.

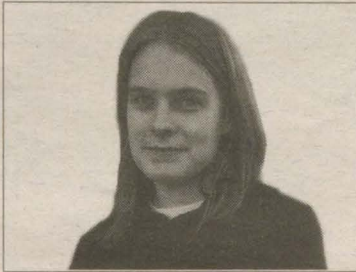
It wasn't finding the right university program that made me comfortable with school. I had to think beyond school and a little closer to home to discover what I wanted to do. There were goals I had set for myself that required more than a mere A to accomplish.

Students with doubts about university are right to question their life choices. The doubts come from a natural need to establish yourself at an age where you need more confidence and self-reliance than ever before in your life.

While university admittedly isn't for everyone, don't let doubts scare you into copping out. It's natural to question your life at this time. Just don't use university as a scapegoat to blame your confusion.

The Scientific Skeptic

A skeptic's guide to infomercials



CATHERINE HOLLOWAY
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

You've probably seen them all: the cleaning solutions that work on all surfaces and the devices that will give you rock hard abs without any sit-ups. Miracle products are sold on TV everyday, during the commercial breaks for *The View* and *Oprah* and in the wee hours of the morning.

The most dangerous of these products are those that promise pain relief or amazing health benefits. The infomercials prey on insomniacs who are up late or sick people stuck at home, and the products range from rip-offs to hazards. Here's what the infomercials don't tell you.

HeadOn, ActivOn, and other Miralux Healthcare products

HeadOn is like a glue stick that you rub on your forehead. It's best known for its annoying commercials that command viewers to "Apply directly to the forehead!" over and over again. HeadOn is meant to get rid of headaches, but its use is never explained in the ads.

This is because Miralux Healthcare is not allowed to say HeadOn cures headaches as there is no scientific evidence to support its effectiveness. HeadOn's active ingredient is potassium dichromate, which can cause cancer.

Luckily, HeadOn is a homeo-

pathic remedy. Homeopathy is an alternative medicine that claims extremely diluted versions of things that are bad for the body can be used as medicine. There are around a million molecules of water for every molecule of potassium dichromate, rendering it perfectly harmless – and virtually ineffective.

Q-Ray

These little metal bracelets are supposed to increase your "vitality" and alleviate pain by balancing your chi. Q-Ray is called an "ionizing bracelet," but it contains no ions, which are molecules that are either positively or negatively charged. CBC's *Marketplace* took a Q-Ray bracelet to a chemical engineer at the University of Toronto, who showed that the bracelet contained no charge.

Q-Ray's website claims the bracelets are based on traditional Asian medicine, and will balance the negative and positive energies in the body. However, in 2006 the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in the United States took Q-Ray to court for false advertising and found that the inventors of the bracelet made up the theory of how it worked. They were also accused of linking the Q-Ray to traditional Asian medicine to entice Western consumers.

A study done by the Mayo Clinic determined that the bracelet worked as well as a placebo – meaning its power to remove pain is completely in the wearer's head. The bracelets are basically a \$250 lucky charm. The FTC won their court case against Q-Ray and as a result they are no longer allowed to claim that their bracelets relieve pain.

Kinoki Pads

These are like sticky Kotex pads

you stick on the bottom of your feet that are supposed to pull the 'toxins' out of your body, "just as a tree draws toxins down its trunk." According to the infomercial, they are effective because they turn brownish-black overnight, which are the heavy metals, parasites, mucous and cellulite that have left your body.

So far the manufacturers of the Kinoki Pads refer to no real clinical trials of their product, despite alluding to "lab reports" in their infomercials. There are only two ways to remove heavy metals from your body: with dangerous chelation therapy or by changing your diet.

There are several reasons why the Kinoki Pads might be turning brown: iodine that may have been added by the manufacturers could react with the sweat on your feet and rust from a mild electrolysis reaction (this reaction occurs in other foot detox products). Another possibility is that the exfoliation of the wearer's foot skin might cause skin cells to come off on the pads. It's highly unlikely that the pads are soaking up any mucous or cellulite.

If any of these products actually worked, they would be immediately bought up by one of the big, legitimate pharmaceutical or medical product companies and advertised on prime time television. But makers have to rely on cheap TV advertising slots to be able to sell their products, instead of word of mouth and good press, like any truly revolutionary health product.

It doesn't require a degree in medicine to be able to tell if products advertised on infomercials actually work. If an infomercial makes amazing claims about a product but doesn't spell out what it does or how it works, it's probably because it doesn't.

Going green for a white Christmas

JENN CONTER
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

This New Year's, I didn't want to make a typical resolution like losing weight or doing a better job at school. An original resolution might be harder to forget about by February.

I only needed to look out my window to figure out my New Year's resolution. As I returned home from my Jewish family's Christmas Eve tradition of watching a movie and eating Chinese food, I couldn't help but feel badly for the kids next door who weren't going to have a white Christmas the next morning.

I couldn't help but think back to the white snow banks of Christmases past. Just before Christmas this year, Halifax received a festive dumping of snow, only to have it unfortunately followed by a dumping of rain. As I checked the weather and tried to wrap my head around the five degrees above zero the thermostat showed, I wondered where winter went.

When I was young, I couldn't wait for winter to come and snow to fall. Though the consistently cold weather would not truly arrive until January, snow made touchdown usually in December. The lawns remained fluffy and white until after Dick Clark's ball dropped.

As the years passed and the snow receded earlier and earlier, the selfish side of me embraced the warming climate and opted for a thinner



Snowmen may one day be legends to your grandchildren.

winter jacket. But with a huge snowstorm in Halifax followed freakishly fast by rising temperatures, I feel a nostalgia for winter sweaters and skiing. The umbrellas and early spring flowers aren't a good replacement.

In this, I found my New Year's resolution and a challenge for the student body of Dalhousie in 2008. I plan to change my daily routine to better my planet.

Simple changes like turning off more lights, watching less TV, leaving the car in the garage and taking time to

walk are viable options. I have already made the conscious effort to turn off the water while I brush my teeth, but I feel I should and can do more.

Maritimers pride themselves on experiencing all four seasons, even when they don't always come on time or when they all make an appearance minutes apart. I like winter and I refuse to see it eliminated from our seasonal schedule. There is a reason why tinsel and twinkle lights look bad on a palm tree and Santa wears a thick red suit.

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Gazette

The Gazette is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the students of Dalhousie University, to provide an open forum for the free expression and exchange of ideas, and to stimulate meaningful debate on issues that

affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general. The views of the Editorial Board are not necessarily the views of Dalhousie University.

Local solutions needed to end poverty

This past week, Liberal MP Ken Dryden began a cross-country tour to discuss the issues plaguing the country's poor. The former minister of social development is trying to bring attention to poverty in Canada and more precisely, to his party's plan to cut poverty by 30 per cent and child poverty by 50 per cent in the first five years of being elected. To keep these promises from ending up in the political trash heap, the MP from York Centre must ensure that the right fix is employed for the right problem.

Dryden has the first thing right. A cross-country poverty-tour is exactly what we need. The tour offers a chance to examine the issues at a region-specific, local level. Silence is the scourge of the poor, and awareness is the first step toward making Canada the most effective country in the world at keeping children and the working poor above the poverty line.

The Liberal party's promise to cut poverty by 30 per cent and child poverty by 50 per cent in the first five years of being elected sounds high and lofty. But by applying the appropriate strategy to the problems in each different group and region suffering from poverty, an improvement may be possible.

With his cross-country forums, Dryden has the chance to revolutionize the way Canada deals with poverty. By going local and assessing the specific reasons why certain groups and individuals don't have enough money to cover the basics, a cross-country forum can offer solutions that will work and bring an end to poverty in Canada.

While poor education might impede one region from reducing poverty, cheaper heat might be of more value to another. Each community has its own set of problems, from drug use to racism to few business opportunities.

If Dryden truly wants to set a precedent, he will have to follow through with innovative anti-poverty strategies. Many experts agree that while the economy has been strong in the last few years, poverty in Canada has increased because of deep cuts to social programs under the Liberal governments of the 1990s.

An international study released in 2005 by Social Watch, a coalition made up of 400 non-government organizations in 50 countries, found that in Canada, only 38 per cent of unemployed workers received government benefits. This figure is down from 75 per cent in the early 90s.

The Campaign Against Child Poverty, a national, non-partisan coalition of social organizations, said that as of 2005, one in six Canadian children lived below the poverty line. Their 2005 Report Card on Child Poverty, which uses figures from Statistics Canada and a few policy think tanks, found that this represents approximately 1.2 million children.

The 2003 Report Card said that while the House of Commons unanimously aimed to eliminate child poverty in 1989, Canada has never had its child poverty rate fall beneath the 1989 rate of 14.9 per cent since.

While some may argue that poverty is a part of every society, the situation in Canada has more than enough room for improvement. The 2003 Campaign said that child poverty in Canada has barely changed in 30 years. They reported that, though Canada's rate of child poverty remained at around 20 per cent in the 1990s, Nordic countries kept their rates below 5 per cent.

Child poverty is a question of social justice. No one should be impeded from working toward their life goals because they cannot feed themselves properly or afford heating. And since children are in no position to work, the onus is on the rest of society to ensure they at least have a chance to live a healthy life and have the opportunity to learn and play.

There has never been a more urgent time to end child poverty. We are living in a time of exceptional economic growth and the structure of social development aid in place today is not working. This becomes especially apparent when we look at three recent socio-economic trends in this country: the wealth gap, the wage gap and the increase in hours spent at work.

Firstly, the disparity between the rich and the poor is growing, according to a study by the Cana-

dian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA). The CCPA is a think tank and research group based in Ottawa. A study by the CCPA in 2002 revealed that between 1970 and 1999, the net worth of the wealthiest 10 per cent of families more than doubled, increasing to an average of \$980,000.

During the same time frame, the inflation-adjusted net worth of the poorest 10 per cent of families fell 28 per cent. The average debt of families in this group is \$10,600.

Secondly, the wage gap between the rich and the poor isn't getting any smaller. According to another study released by the CCPA last March, the wage disparity between the wealthiest and the poorest has never been this wide in 30 years.

Finally, Canadians are working harder than ever before. The CCPA's March study says Canadian families were working 200 more hours a year on the job in 2004 than in 1996.

In order to ensure the Liberals take the correct action to counter poverty, the first place Dryden should look is energy.

In this province, the skyrocketing price of oil and gas is a huge setback for the working poor. Escalating heating bills have put a huge strain on income, and the price of energy shows no sign of decreasing any time soon.

Investing in local and more efficient ways of producing energy is the only way to solve the 'heat or eat' dilemma facing so many families. Such an initiative would be welcome at a time when global warming is a concern for everyone.

In 2005, Nova Scotia introduced a rebate of \$250 for low-income families. Then the province decided to change strategies, cutting the provincial portion of the HST on everyone's heating bills instead.

Just like the federal Tories' recent cut to the GST, this tax decrease does little to help the poor. On top of that, it decreases the money available to the government to provide effective programs to keep Canadians above the poverty line.

We hope Dryden's cross-country tour will bring poverty to the front-burner in Ottawa.

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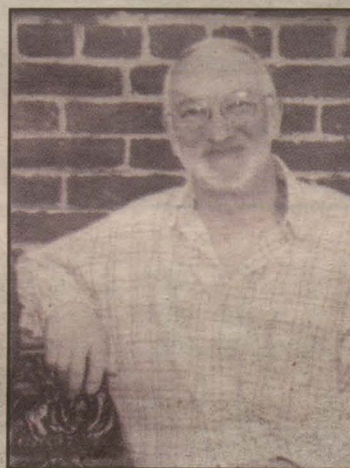
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Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting:
Monday, January 21st @ 5:30 p.m.
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STREETER

What do you daydream of in class?



“The metaphysics of morality.”

Jeremy Butler, fourth-year philosophy



“Running through the forest covered in peanut butter, naked.”

Kaleigh Dunlop, fourth-year neuroscience



“Equations.”

John Sampson, first-year engineering



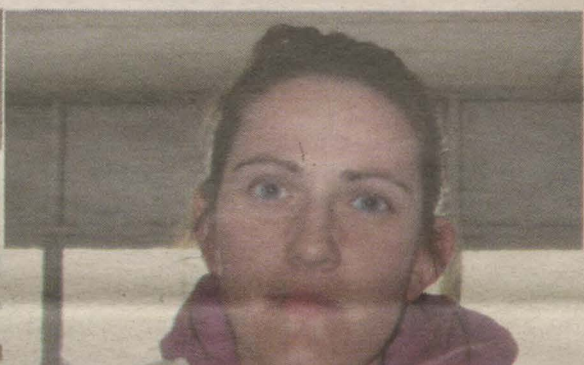
“Sleeping and vacations.”

Emma Armishaw, second-year psychology



“Reading my chess strategy book.”

Janis Johnson, second-year history



“Travelling.”

Maria Zazharuk, third-year psychology



“Skiing in Whistler.”

Jonathan Connelly, second-year commerce



“Margaret Thatcher and an iron-fisted kind of love.”

James Munson, seventh-year imp hunting

TOP 10

...REASONS TO GO TO YOUR EARLY CLASS

1. The early bird gets the worm, and at 70 calories apiece, worms are a great source of energy.
2. Help the national economy by patronizing Tim Hortons.
3. Compete for first place in the surly looks Olympics.
4. Skip your morning shower and no one will notice.
5. 6:30 a.m. is the perfect time to lay out vindictive good-morning booby traps for your roommates.
6. If you've got an evening class too, you can boast that you have longer days than those whiny sweatshop kids.
7. Not an early bird? Why not just go to bed *after* that first class?
8. If you snore and fall out of your seat just give a sly wink and mutter something about being “shagged out.”
9. Work out how much each hour of class is costing you. Still feeling dozy?
10. Dumbass comments sound utterly reasonable before 10 a.m.

HOT OR NOT

HOT: Self-esteem	NOT: You
HOT: Cheap drinks	NOT: Being forced to go to the The Palace
HOT: Seven-day weekends	NOT: Registering for classes
HOT: Surprises	NOT: Pregnancy
HOT: Fun with friends	NOT: Russian roulette
HOT: Reading, writing	NOT: Arithmetic
HOT: Minor inconveniences	NOT: Unplanned public erections
HOT: Alcoholism	NOT: Buzz kills
HOT: Alone time	NOT: Chronic masturbation
HOT: Robots and androids	NOT: Knowing the difference

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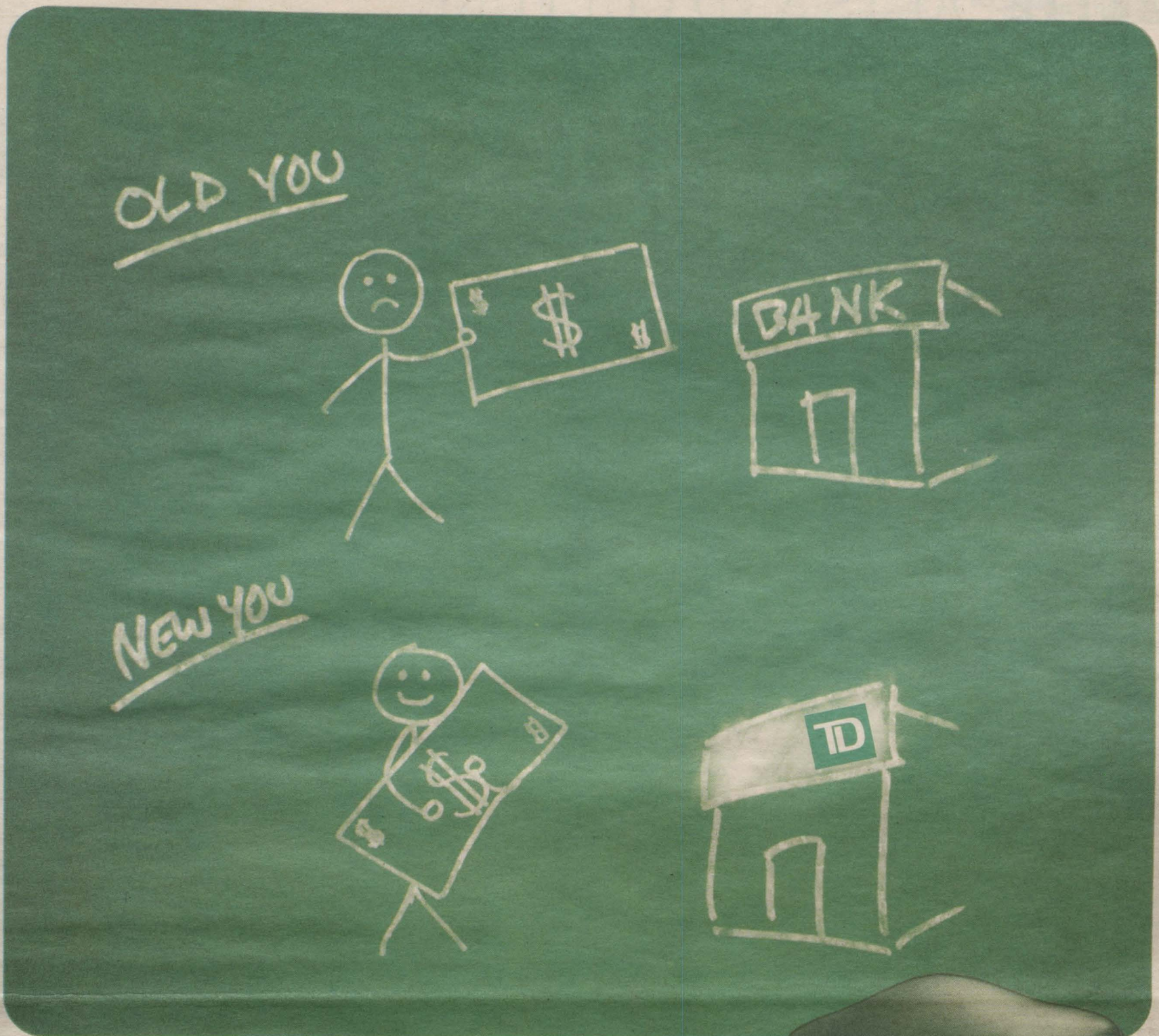
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Under the needle

JOSHUA BOYTER
PHOTO EDITOR
PHOTOS: JOSH BOYTER

A flash of ink is not an uncommon sight around university campuses, and Dalhousie is no exception. Although, most people would probably expect to see tattoos on students, rather than professors.

Sociology professor Christopher Helland became a poster child for Dalhousie's "Discover the Unexpected" campaign, promoting the university in an ad where his tattoos are a focal point.

Helland has more than a dozen separate tattoos that make up two nearly full sleeves. They range from a wave on his right forearm, which

represents his love of surfing, to traditional Japanese symbols, which were tapped into his skin by hand.

He will be featured on a History Channel documentary called *Ancient Ink* where he will be one of the on-screen experts. Helland starts work on the show in February.

As part of the documentary, Helland will be getting a traditional Neolithic tattoo from a tattoo artist who is flying in from Copenhagen, Denmark. The artist will sew through Helland's skin with a needle dipped in ink. The ink on the needle will remain under the skin, leaving Helland with an indelible mark through the ancient technique.

Tattooing has existed throughout history, according to Helland. Artic

societies used the Neolithic 'sewing' technique, though only the women administered the body art, as they had deft hands and were the experts with needles in their society.

Today tattoo machinery is much more high-tech. Modern tattoo guns are electrically powered and can control needle speed and depth. A solid needle moves up and down, puncturing the skin 50 to 3,000 times per minute and depositing ink into the second layer of skin - the dermis.

Helland says today tattoos offer people a way to mark their associations and stake out a place for themselves.

"It is a way for us to be individuals...having an identity that is not just a computer file or computer

number."

Because of the popularity of tattooing today, it's understandable that Dal's campaign was expected to catch students' attention. Helland was a little wary about appearing in the ads at first. After he agreed, his image ended up on a billboard on Bedford Highway.

Helland says he got a lot of flack from fellow professors for the ad, who thought it was not a good way to promote academia. They suggested it might not be such a great thing for Helland to be known as 'the tattooed prof.' But Helland says he doesn't mind.

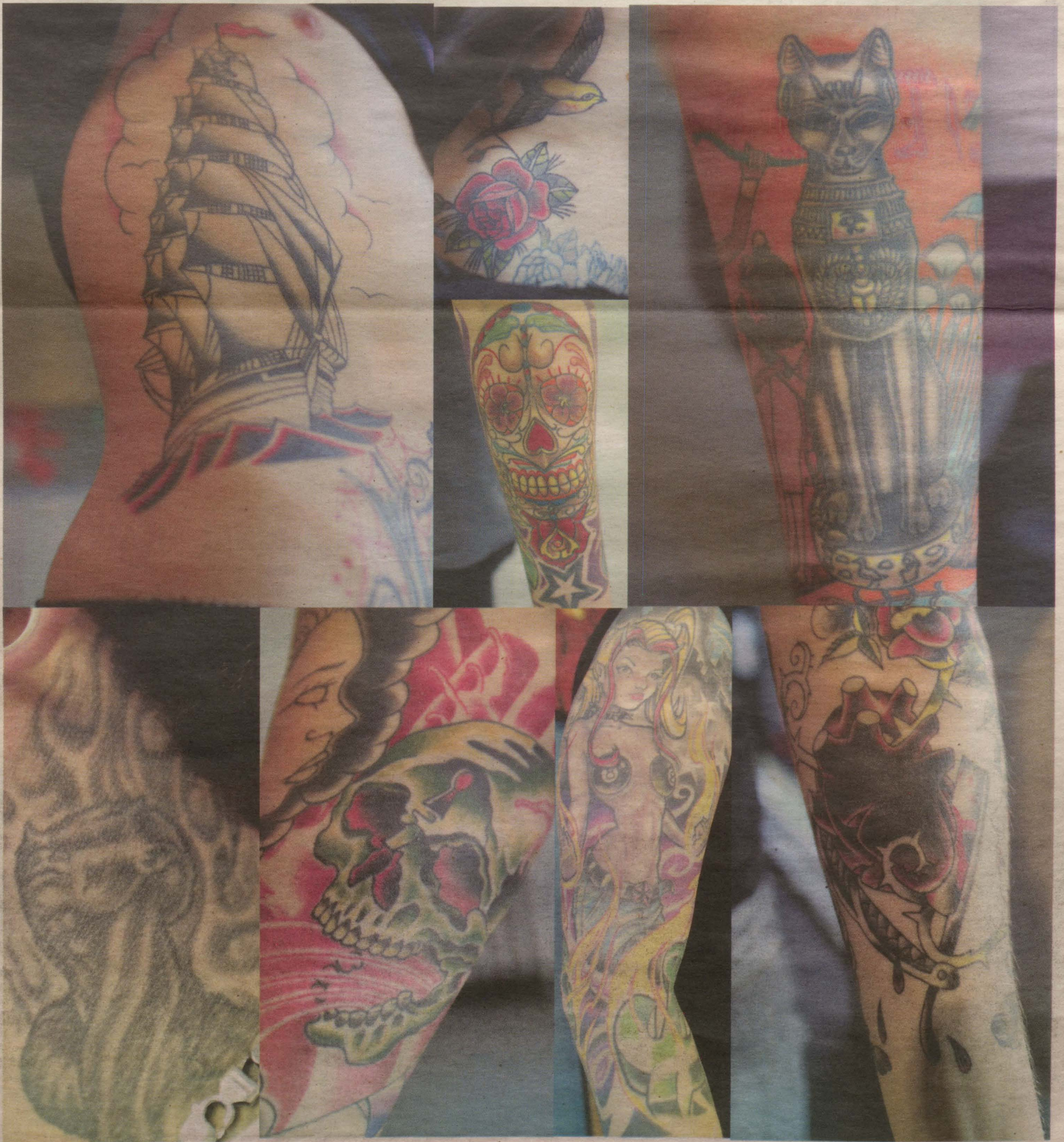
"I am very well established in my field and I have a great track record. It's not as if I'm just 'the tattooed

professor."

Kyle LeBlanc, a tattoo artist at Sin on Skin in Halifax, has been tattooing for 18 years in the Halifax area. He says he has seen the tattoo scene change dramatically during his career.

"It has changed a lot. It was more of a rebellious thing when I got into it and that was the culture that was drawn to it," says LeBlanc. "And now it's such commonplace that it has almost turned into a fashion trend."

Tattoos are not as taboo as they once were, says Amber Thorpe, a tattoo artist at Adept Tattoos in Halifax. Thorpe has seen an increase in people who seem like unlikely candidates come into her shop for a tattoo.



"It was a lowbrow art," she says. "But now it's becoming so mainstream."

Tattooing as an art form is gaining more respect as it gains popularity. Thorpe says TV shows like *Miami Ink*, *London Ink*, and *LA Ink* are good for business.

But LeBlanc says the shows are awful because they give new artists hope that they can open up a shop today and quickly gain popularity. He also says that although the shows try to display new designs, it's tough to be innovative with such a popular art form.

"With the television shows today, everyone is trying to stay away from what's trendy and go with something original, but everything has been done a hundred times."

In contrast to their mainstream popularity today, Helland says tattoos used to be associated mainly with criminals and sailors.

"Twenty years ago, [tattooing] was still very marginal," he says.

According to Helland, it has become much more of a cultural phenomenon than ever before.

"I would probably say at least one in three students have a tattoo, so it is a very high percentage," Helland says.

But Alycia Kleck of Utility Tattoo & Body Piercing Studio says tattoo culture hasn't successfully entered the mainstream, despite its rising popularity.

"It still has that edge to it, where it always will, hopefully," says Kleck. "As long as it hurts it's still going to be something that is going to be a bit fringe."

Although the general popularity of tattoos is on the rise, LeBlanc has seen a decline in the number of students getting tattoos today. He attributes this to changes in student loans and increasing tuition rates.

"Students don't have the extra money around to get tattooed,"

Thorpe agrees. "There is an upside to getting a tattoo. (It's) the only way to make a student loan last forever."

A shift the artists have observed is where their clients want their tattoos.

"Most women are tending to put shit on their arms (now)," says Thorpe. "That was rare because we always tattooed our legs when I started 10 years ago."

Thorpe says that recently, both men and women are having tattoos done on their wrists and neck.

"People don't want to cover them up. They want to show them off," Thorpe says.

She says feet and shoulder blades are still popular choices. Recently, people are also getting tattoos done on their ribs.

"Ribs have become hot, which is kind of funny because it is the spot that hurts the most. About 90 per cent of the people don't fair so well with it. I have seen some pretty tough guys go down pretty quick," says LeBlanc.

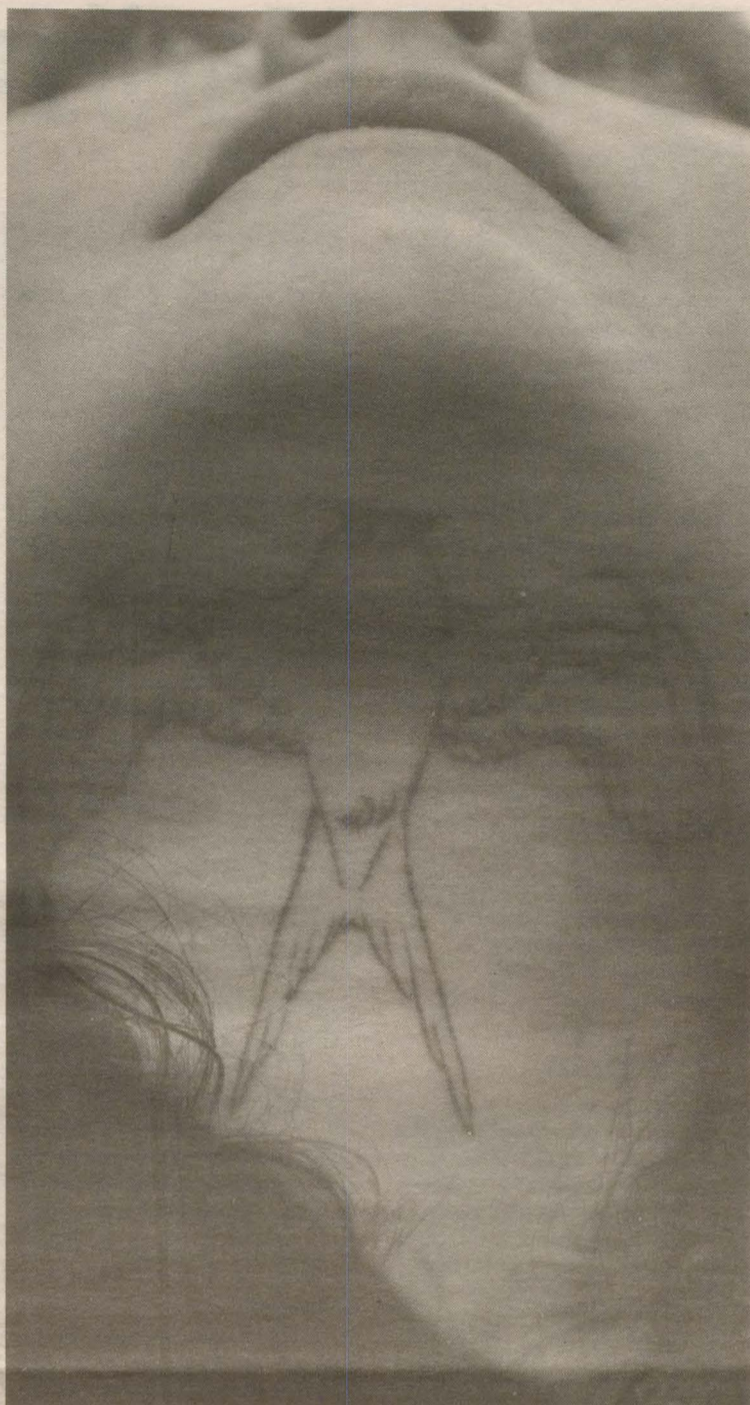
Subject matter for tattoo designs varies from place to place, often drawing from local culture. Thorpe says tattoos in Nova Scotia are more nautically inspired than in other parts of Canada.

"A lot of nautical stars, a lot of nautical themes, because we sit on the ocean," she says. "But out in Alberta I was tattooing things like wheat."

Kleck at Utility notices a lot of traditional tattoos like ships, pirates, daggers and banners. Thorpe says pinup girls are still very popular.

Kimberly Taylor, a Bachelor of Music student at Dal, says she wanted her tattoo to represent change as she started life at university. However, she says tattooing something specific on your body when you're young may lose meaning over time.

"When I'm 17, something that means a lot maybe means nothing



when I'm 50," Taylor says.

Helland says people need to put more thought into their tattoos.

"Where [tattooing] can be a problem is when someone does not think too much about the design or the symbols," he says.

Cover-ups are a staple of the tattoo industry. People can change their minds or might be unsatisfied with the quality of the original work, so old tattoos can be covered up with new work that masks the image. This is accomplished by either incorporating the old design into a new one or covering it over completely.

"A lot of the people get butchered," says LeBlanc.

Thorpe says many people get bad work done and shouldn't have to live with it.

"If it's a poorly done job and it's small, I have no problem covering it up. If they don't want it on their body then I will get rid of it and give them something that they want," she says.

"Some people, when they got their first tattoo, didn't get what they really wanted or got something small because they did not know what to expect," says LeBlanc. "Some people just want to cover up that part of their life. There are parts of your life that you don't want to remember."

Helland has a tattoo he wanted covered up, but after talking to a tattoo artist in Toronto he decided against it. He says it's important to him to keep all his tattoos intact.

"Tattoos are like telling a story about your life, so as people get them they often represent certain times," he says. "You are writing a story on yourself."

LeBlanc sees tattooing as an irreplaceably human art form. As art becomes more and more digital, it becomes difficult to find art that has a truly human touch.

"It's the only art that can't be replaced by a computer or a machine."



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Waiting game

PATRICK ST. AMAND
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

In one of the most famous descriptions of the play *Waiting for Godot*, Irish literary critic Vivian Mercier sums up the plot by saying, "nothing happens, twice." But the director of Samuel Beckett's play, which is being performed by the King's Theatrical Society, simply smiles at this description.

"Theatre is about individual conversations," Mitch Cushman says.

Cushman, a fourth-year English and theatre major, has directed some of his own plays, as well as *Glengarry Glen Ross* and *Jumpers*. *Godot*, which is exceptionally dialogue-based, gives actors a chance to shine through their onstage interactions.

The play revolves around five characters and the set is comprised simply of a barren tree on an old country road. But don't let the simplicity of the set design and minimal cast fool you. Beckett's play is anything but simple.

"I didn't go in with any preconceived notions," Cushman says. "I was learning about the play along the way."

When production began, a lot

of time was spent analyzing the text. The cast and crew have been working since mid-October on perfecting the play. They started by watching and studying old vaudeville movies to develop a sense of slapstick humour. Later on, during rehearsals, the cast practiced their lines outside in an open space, keeping the sense of the abstract play alive.

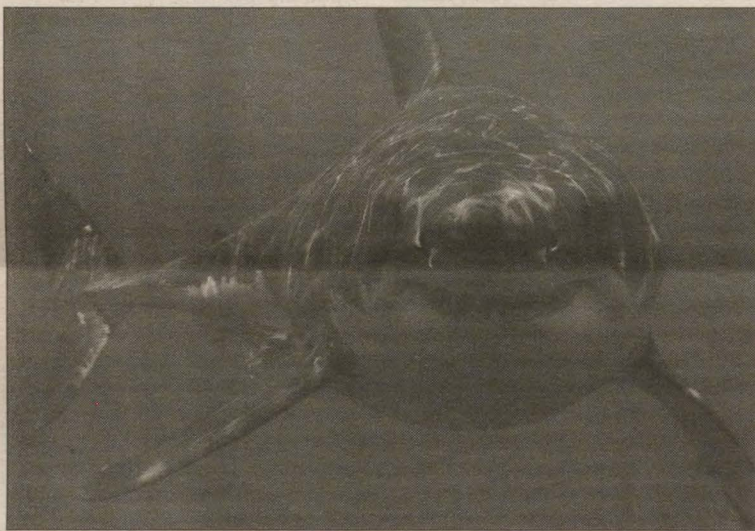
This is Cushman's first attempt at one of Beckett's plays – all of which come with certain rules, such as no ad libbing and no music. But there is still a lot of room for directors to experiment.

"People look at this play and steer away from it. We are playing up the humour for people to get a lot out of it," says Cushman.

Waiting for Godot has been described as a tragic comedy, so don't expect it to be all laughs. Along with slapstick similarities to Charlie Chaplin, Cushman compares the play to the Monty Python "Argument Clinic" sketch, in which characters create petty distractions to replace meaningful debate.

"It's trivial, but that's what's great about it."

Waiting for Godot plays from Jan. 16-19 in the King's Pit.



Never had I ever: Been eyed by a shark

JASON COHANIM
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Over the winter break, I had the chance to go kite boarding in Key West, Florida – or at least that was the plan. However, the wind did not want to co-operate with us, so we spent most days relaxing, checking out funky art and hoping to catch a glimpse of a manatee or gator somewhere in the reeds. If only I knew then how close I was about to get to the local wildlife.

On our second last day there the wind was blowing, so we finally got out on the water, all fired up from playing the waiting game all week long. I was awarded the first kite, and once it was up in the air I was off like a bullet. It didn't take me long to realize that in my ecstatic downwind run, I had broken pretty far away from the rest of the group. Not wanting to be stranded on my own, I slowly started making my way back upwind.

As I was making my way back to the safety of numbers, I noticed something swim and splash in front of me. At first glance I knew exactly what it was, but my instincts were convincing me to deny what I saw. I guess this is natural, because when you're all alone on the water, you don't want to accept that your only companion is a two-and-a-half-foot-long shark.

Whether I hit a lull in the wind or

just lost my concentration, shortly after I discovered the predator, my kite crashed into the water.

It was then that I found out that the nice picturesque sand bar we had launched from had turned into gross, mushy sludge. So there I was, sunk up to my knees in the gunk when I see my old pal pop up out of the water, 50 feet in front of me.

I know enough about sharks to know that they aren't out to attack you all the time and usually couldn't be bothered. But those facts don't mean squat when you're all alone in their element, watching them start to slowly swim circles around you. That was the point when I really started to worry.

Keeping my eyes intently on my friend, I grabbed my board and held it up at the ready, already accepting the fact that I might actually have to fight off a shark. For what seemed like an eternity, I stood there until finally, the shark finished its final circle and disappeared under the water. I stayed in my position for a minute more, just to be safe, and then finally breathed a sigh of relief.

I had made it out on top, with no missing limbs. Sweet relief! I was able to finally deal with my crashed kite that had slowly been pulling me out to sea with the current. I trudged my way through the sludge to the crash boat, and it took me back to the safety of the group.

Marilyn visits Halifax

NICK KHATTAR
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The elevator doors open and there she is. Staring at you from all angles. Black and white, colour and of course, Andy Warhol's 1967 screenprint.

All there for you to wonder at and admire: multiple Marilyn Monroes. From Dec. 15 to Feb. 17 the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (AGNS) is showcasing "Life as a Legend: Marilyn Monroe." On Jan. 16, "Marilyn: Forever Blonde, The Marilyn Monroe Story in her own Words and Music" will make its Canadian debut at the Halifax gallery. The play stars Sunny Thompson as Monroe.

The exhibit features 186 different pieces featuring Monroe from various photographers and painters. And it is breathtaking. The third floor of the AGNS assaults the eyes with photographs of the former Hollywood queen.

Some of the most stunning are the black and white photos of Monroe at the beach by photographer and long-time friend Sam Shaw. His famous shot of the big screen seductress trying to hold down her white dress as she stands over a sewer fan is also showcased at the exhibit.

The exhibit features colour photographs, such as one by Ed Feingersh – the famous "Marilyn with Chanel # 5."

The first part of the gallery is dedicated to photographs of Monroe in her early years in Hollywood. She seems giddy, and shows off a pure innocence that appears lost in her later years.

The most striking image in this portion of the gallery is a large colour photo by Milton H. Greene, entitled "Peasant Sitting," from 1954 in L.A. This picture displays Monroe sitting on a cobblestone curb, wearing a grey



Monroe: Nine times the glamour.

dress and shoddy maroon shirt. She isn't smiling and she isn't frowning, but the image evokes sadness.

Through her images, Monroe enters her viewers' minds and makes them feel as if she is looking right at them. She was famous for being able to make a person feel like they were the only one in the world to her at that moment. These pictures make it hard to believe she is dead and not about to wink or blow a kiss at you from the walls of the AGNS.

Further on in the gallery are the Warhols. The largest piece in the exhibit is his 1967 screenprint: nine images of Monroe's face in various Pop Art colours.

Other large, vibrant paintings by

Antonio de Felipe are included in the exhibit. These well-manicured, crisp illustrations of Monroe look like they belong in a comic book. They are perfect and mesmerizing.

The Tom Kelley exhibit showcases the photographer's nude images of Monroe. Her goddess-like curves melt into a red satin sheet – the embodiment of pin-up sensuality.

At the end of the gallery is a display of a chronology of Monroe's life. Near the end, photographs from the Altered Images collection by Christopher Makos accompany the timeline. Makos photographed Warhol dressed in drag as Monroe, a cheeky imitation of the woman whose image Warhol transformed.

Fashion underfoot

KATIE NATION
FASHION COLUMNIST

The sock, that otherwise dull and forgettable foot cushion, has slowly snuck into the minds of the stylish and experimental. In an unexpected adaptation of the underwear-as-outwear trends of the past, our feet's naughty underthings are leaping from the realm of practicality to make a fashion statement of their own.

To spice up the otherwise uncomplicated look of a suit, stylish men in fashion's inner circle have begun experimenting with that little slice of material glimpsed between shoe and trouser. Whether it be a bright red or lime green sock, a stark white sock next to a dark suit or an absence of socks altogether, every time a pant leg rides up is now an opportunity to reveal a fashionably experimental side.

Women's socks are suddenly on the radar, worn over tights or under strappy sandals, thanks in part to a violent effort made by Teen Vogue to ignite the trend.

The Prada Fall 2007 Collection included footless knee-high socks in unpredictable colours, and John Galiano's Spring 2008 models pranced down the runway in heels with black slouchy socks bunched around the ankles.

This is all a little odd. Socks are boring. And past attempts to spice up socks have failed miserably. Think toe socks or striped socks or even worse, striped toe socks (we've all made that mistake in our untutored youth).

The only aesthetic power socks historically hold is the power to de-



Fashion forward from head to toe.

JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

stroy a perfectly good outfit, as seen in the case of socks and sandals or of the knee-high athletic sock appearing anywhere but a soccer field.

Despite socks' blindingly unattractive history, it looks like we're ready to give them another shot. This fresh attempt at drawing attention to our ankles provides us with an inexpensive and interesting way to spice up our outfits.

A statement sock should be one that's bold in nature but subtle, so as to tastefully make a statement with such a bizarre article of clothing. Given the history and nature of the garment, it's incredibly easy to slip from fashionable to foolish.

A socky statement for school should be made by rolling the pant leg up a little to show off a neutral

pair in a similar colour to the pants themselves. This is more about a play of textures and shapes (the bunched pants next to the skinny ankle) than it is about attention-grabbing colour.

This season for the ladies, knee-high, over the knee and thigh-high socks are widely accepted fashion trends that can give a sexy kick to a look. A short dress with thigh-high socks that reach just shy of the hemline allow for a little unexpected flash of skin that's more surprising than skanky.

Unexpectedly sexy may not be the most common way to describe socks, but these practical pairs have been rocking the fashion world of late in a way that's anything but boring.

Tips for student living: Hygiene

NICK KHATTAR
STAFF DIRT BAG

There are ways to maintain good hygiene without sacrificing your booze money. Let's start with the basics. First, any time your hair is getting a little too long and you're short of funds, simply show up at your friend's house and say you will let them cut your hair drunk and blindfolded if they pay you six bucks.

Try to pick a female who has a good tolerance for booze since you are gonna have to live with this haircut for a while. But you got a haircut and can afford a Colt 45. You're set.

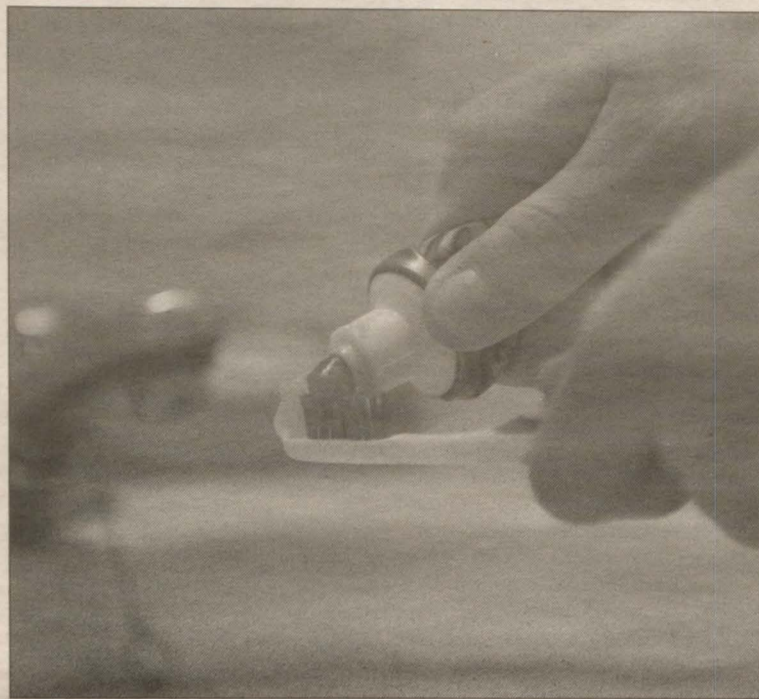
Next, shaving. There aren't many easy ways around this one. But you can grow a beard or let your leg hair grow out and let everyone assume you're a hippy. The plus side to this is that no one will think you're from Toronto and you will get much more respect.

If you're too poor to afford razors and shaving cream, there is another solution. You may have seen this technique in old Clint Eastwood movies. The ol' shave with an extremely sharp buck knife trick.

It is possible, but the learning curve is extremely steep and may result in permanent scarring. But if you have a decent buck knife, know a blacksmith who will sharpen the shit out of it, steady hands and some balls, then you're in business!

To keep those pearly whites white, or at least less yellow, toothbrushes are easily conjured simply by showing up at any dentist's office and telling them you want to brush your teeth before your appointment. Once they hand you the brush, get out of there and don't look back.

Now toothpaste is expensive and



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Why waste booze money on toothpaste and shaving cream?

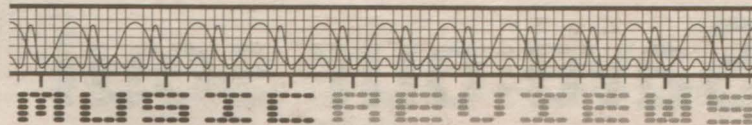
really bad for your health, but there is an alternative. Remember that box of baking soda that was in your fridge when you moved in? Well, you made the right move by not eating it for 20 bucks like your landlord suggested.

You can actually use this stuff to brush your teeth. It's not pleasant by any means, but it will get the job done. Then all you need to do is unwind some nylon rope and you have a lifetime supply of floss.

Now on to your extremities - more specifically, your fingernails. Nothing is worse than picking your nose and cutting your nostril. Best way to take care of this cheaply is

to pay no attention to friends, family and psychologists and go to town with your chompers. Bite away! And after you bite 'em off, all ya need to do is find some sandpaper (available at any construction site) and sand those badboys down. I mean, you could just go rub them on a brick wall, but you haven't reached that level...yet.

And that's it: a hygiene regimen that doesn't require giving up any of the finer things in life, like malt liquor. I hope I don't need to tell you that procuring soap, shampoo and towels merely calls for a visit to the nearest hotel at checkout time.



The Daft Punk experience

CHRIS METLER
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The live experience of Daft Punk is one so transcendent that, quite simply, you don't even have to be physically there for the techno duo's mesmerizing showmanship to take full effect.

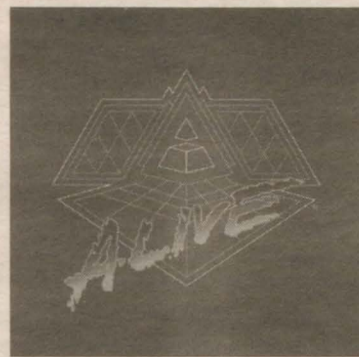
Back with their second live album, *Alive 2007*, the sequel to the revelatory *Alive 1997*, Daft Punk triumphantly displays the power of their live performance again. The album also marks their homecoming to their native city of Paris, the birthplace of French house music.

Though a favourite of the musically inclined for over a decade, Daft Punk's efforts have been largely ignored in recent years. They have been passed over by electronic music fans in the wake of a growing interest in such progressive, contemporary artists as DJ Tiesto and Benny Benassi.

But without even an album of new material to back them up, it has suddenly become cool to like Daft Punk again.

Much of the kudos can be given to Kanye West, I suppose, and his sampling of the group's "Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger" from their seminal release, *Discovery*. With his number-one song, "Stronger," West's credibility and momentum with the mainstream masses started to rub off on the French duo, and the buzz began to build again.

Now, they reign atop the pack



once more, and *Alive 2007* proves they are still at the forefront of the electronic movement.

The new album has 13 tracks, each one blending at least two of their known pieces together in a new and distinct way. Featuring a selection of old, new and rare songs from their distinguished catalogue, highlights include "Touch It/Technologic," "Burnin'/Too Long," "Face To Face/Short Circuit," and "One More Time/Aerodynamic."

The standout song is the conclusive "Music Sounds Better With You" remix, which combusts with a palpable energy worthy of closing such an explosive set.

A popular urban myth in musical circles is that most Daft Punk shows aren't even played by the real performers, but rather by hired decoys playing a pre-mixed selection. But really, who cares? Every city could use its own Daft Punk. Now if only they could package that light show...



CHRISITTE CONWAY / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Kid Koala eats eucalyptus leaves and spits phat beats at The Marquee.

Marsupial madness at The Marquee

DANIEL LATNER
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

There's simply no way to not be impressed by turntable master Kid Koala, who played last Saturday at The Marquee. The positive vibe was palpable from the first beat to the last.

Koala, born Eric San, is famous for his turntable skills and tricks. The Montreal-based DJ's hands were blown up and projected on a screen behind him so the audience could watch as he manipulated his sound station of knobs and records with fluidity.

The 34-year-old DJ scratches classic tunes, making his slogan of "yo mama's favorite dj" appropriate.

The icing on the cake was the knock-your-socks-off opening dance party with Halifax's own Ruby Jean and the Thoughtful Bees.

The male band members wore matching metallic spaceman shirts and brewed a raging storm of beeps and buzzes on drums, guitar and a

laptop/other gadgetry while Ruby Jean (a.k.a. Rebekah Higgs) mesmerized the crowd with psychedelic, minimalist vocals run through two microphones and a Pulp-Fictionish mysterious glowing suitcase.

At the end of their set, they looked surprised and delighted at how well they'd been received. Maybe they don't know how good they are yet, but they'll realize pretty soon, so do yourself a favour and check these guys out before they get too big for Halifax.

And if you missed the show, you may have to wait awhile for your next chance to see Kid Koala. He announced with a cheeky grin that he's planning to go on tour with DJ Diplo, who among other things, remixed on Beck's album.

Koala combined showmanship with musical sensibility to create a fantastic show. All the hype is well deserved.

Ruby Jean and the Thoughtful Bees are playing Saturday, Jan. 19 at The Attic.

Norwegian diary:

A new view of Norway

BRITTANY SMITH
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

"All hotels are equipped with efficient training equipment known as 'stairs.' To make the most of them, walk or run up or down them, depending on where you want to go. Most of our hotels also feature lifts - for those who either do not need or do not want free exercise."

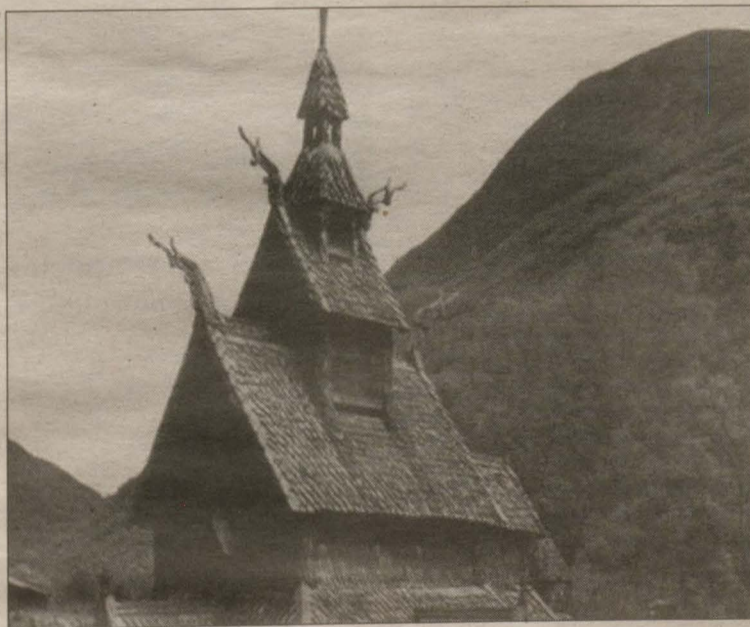
This note on my bedside table at the Clarion Hotel Bergen Airport was the first thing I was exposed to as a Dal exchange student in Norway. It was also the first cultural difference I had come across since landing in the country.

I was surprised by the note, because it was a very nice, luxurious hotel. Rather than trying to stick their noses as far as possible up a guest's ass, this hotel risked insulting guests to get a point across.

How refreshing.

And the refreshing Norwegian way did not end there. I have been in Norway for only one week and it is already evident that the country and its beautiful people are conscious, progressive, equitable and healthy.

I couldn't leave my hotel room unless all the lights were turned off. To turn the lights on or off, you had to put your key card in a slot. To leave your room, you needed your key to lock the door. Taking your key out of the slot turned the lights off, and voila! You never forget your key and you waste less energy. Even the shower was equipped with a water-



WIKIPEDIA

Norway is full of beautiful environmentalists who scorn you for being lazy.

saving nozzle.

And consumers are charged for each plastic bag they use. Trust me, you really feel like a jackass when you're at the grocery store and need more than one bag at the check-out counter.

Norway is arguably one of the most effective welfare states. Though it's tax-financed, it is also based on the principle of universalism, where everyone contributes and benefits.

Universal education isn't just a nice-sounding political promise, devoid of genuine intention. Educa-

tion, from kindergarten to university, is essentially free. In Norway, post-secondary education is considered a right, not a privilege like in Canada.

Norway is also one of the very few countries that have met the United Nations' 0.7 per cent of GDP target, in the hopes of cutting worldwide poverty in half by 2015.

But everything in this world comes with a price tag, and I'm sure the Norwegian system is no exception. When I find the tag, I'll let you know.

Save our soul

DANIEL REED
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Seven years past the jiggy era and rap music is going through a mid-life crisis. It seems as if the fans, the critics, the executives and the artists are giving up hope. Even Nas, hip hop's legendary lyricist, unzipped the body bag and proclaimed the genre dead.

Gripping about the industry's shortcomings is an easy route for an artist to take, but this alone won't create positive changes. If artists and fans want more thoughtful material, as opposed to a slew of club hits, they need to put the responsibility on the record labels.

In its formative years, leading up to the mid-90s, many albums were released that challenged and changed musical standards. But as the years progress, artists no longer seem to be aiming to create classics. All that matters, apparently, is gaining the attention of club-goers with a catchy single.

2007 did not grant the public a single album that was worthy enough to be considered 'classic,' and it seems few artists were able to garner wide critical acclaim and sell a respectable number of discs at the same time.

There were two albums that found their way onto many year-end retrospectives of good rap music. Hipsters drooled over M.I.A.'s clunky, pseudo-revolutionary *Kala*, while Kanye West's *Graduation* encouraged every crispy, clean, cardigan-

sporting consumer to buy Daft Punk records. But this is where the list of simultaneously critically and commercially successful efforts ended.

The rap album, once the hard currency of the genre's recording industry, has been slowly phased out of the picture and replaced by club-accessible singles and compiled mix-tape CD-Rs. Mix tapes often contain as much material on cheaply made CD-Rs, resulting in an unfocused, lengthy collage.

Mix-tape favourites such as Saigon, Papoose and Lil' Wayne have generated buzz about themselves by leaking exclusive songs onto the internet and releasing their work on the streets of major cities. Wayne, the self-proclaimed Greatest Rapper Alive, has stoked the fire of his reputation by putting out mix-tapes at extra-terrestrial rates. He says he's a Martian, after all.

It's disappointing that CD-Rs have become the musical currency of hip hop rather than actual albums, especially after such a drastic fall in hip hop record sales. Rap music was once the music industry's number one breadwinner.

The annual Billboard Chart for Top 200 Albums shows that an album from the "Rap" category outsold discs from every other genre in each year from 2002 to 2005. Usher's 2004 *Confessions*, an album from the "R&B/Hip-Hop" category, was the only exception.

This was quite an important run. The three rap albums that outsold

the competition were all products of Aftermath Entertainment. The unbridled successes of Eminem's *The Eminem Show* and 50 Cent's *Get Rich or Die Tryin'* and *The Massacre* indicated the massive selling power the genre possessed.

Dr. Dre, Aftermath's CEO and executive producer, is credited for discovering this talent and packaging it for worldwide superstardom. His success as a trailblazing recording artist helped legitimize his oft-heralded ear for talent. Combined with his business-savvy ways, Aftermath's structure of 'artist-as-label-head' would soon be replicated throughout rap's upper echelon of record companies.

Maybe this is the winning formula. Instead of some crusty Tommy Mottola-type saying what is and what isn't a hot rap record, it should be the most successful artists that call the shots.

Aside from the music put out by massive labels, independent artists continue to produce quality tracks. The small, alternative label, Los Angeles-based Stones Throw, grants its roster of musicians and emcees full creative control over their own projects, while maintaining a respectable distribution deal with Koch Records.

In such a commercially driven industry, artists are faced with a tough decision. They must choose between selling their soul and individuality to please the masses, or continue to fight for creative control with often little reward.

The Epicurious Student

Flying high: Best wings in the city

ANDREW BERNARDO
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

If you're a nutrition major or a cardiologist, it's in your best interests to skip this column. You will likely be appalled. Chicken wings are one of the most unhealthy, artery-clogging foods you could ever eat. Fried once, refried for good measure and then sauced to perfection, the calorie count of chicken wings is probably equal to that of a spoonful of bacon drippings taken from the tin can under your sink.

But students love beer. And what goes better with beer than greasy, heart-unfriendly food? Devouring dozens of these fried delights and drinking the taps dry at a local establishment is the best way to tell your body you're still in charge.

I've been on a mission since the beginning of September to find the best wings in Halifax. And I think I've done it. Before I announce the winners (and losers), I want to say that breaded wings do not turn my crank, but I did force them down. Yes, I was valiant and persevered. The triple bypass in October didn't do me well and the time my heart stopped at Your Father's Moustache did freak out my date, but 150 wings and 10 establishments later: results.

Third Runner-up - The Alehouse: Breaded, but O.K. The best part about them is their size and the fact that you get a pitcher of beer to help push them down. You can't beat a pitcher and 10 wings for under \$10. Plus, even if you hate the wings, you still get a pitcher for under \$10, and there's nothing wrong with that.

Second Runner-up - Maxwell's

Plum: These wings are non-breaded and aren't drenched in sauce - just what the doctor ordered after a night of hard drinking. Crispy-skinned, they are just what wings should be.

First Runner-up - Oasis Pub & Eatery: Oasis is not my usual Friday or Saturday night stop for social drinking. I am usually passed out on a shuffleboard table, or yelling sweet nothings to the VLT players as they squander their welfare checks.

But on Thursday nights, Oasis turns into *Animal House*, minus Belushi. Swarms of students come out to cram back cheap wings and watch sports on one of the 3 million TV screens strewn throughout the bar. The wings, while small, are non-breaded, although there does appear to be some kind of coating on them. The sauces work well, and the price is right.

Winner - The Peel Pub: It was really a toss up between Oasis and the Peel, but the Peel's wings were larger and the sauces were somewhat better. There were two cheap nights and the beer on tap didn't taste like it had been sitting in the sun for a week. It's a shame they closed down.

The Losers: First Runner-up - Your Father's Moustache: I'm sorry, but any restaurant that gives you sauce in a Dixie cup on the side of your wings rather than on them is just lazy.

Loser - The Pogue Fadó: I had to build an ark to keep my wings afloat in the sea of sauce on my plate. Sauce is good, but an ocean of it is not. Don't order the barbeque, because they'll dump a bottle of Bull's-Eye on it and expect that somehow you won't die soon thereafter.

SEX WITH HUGH

The slimy pulpo *Salmantino*



HUGH WALLACE
SEX COLUMNIST



WIKIPEDIA

So I promise I will get off the subject of Spain really soon, but for now I'm totally engrossed and need to get some ideas out of my head. This certain idea has been brewing in my mind since my arrival in Spain and my exposure to its culture.

In Canada we have a certain kind of animal that preys on women and men alike. This, dear friends, is the player.

We call people players as if it were a good thing. Men, especially, are rarely if ever criticized for having a high number of partners, and in fact, are often praised for slightly promiscuous behaviour.

A player is someone (usually a man) who has many relationships or encounters with many different partners in a short amount of time. The reason this term is most often applied to men is because women are traditionally not praised for this behaviour.

Usually when a woman takes control of her sex life in a promiscuous way, it is seen as disgusting, immoral and outrageous. We call women like this sluts, whores, bitches and many other colourful words.

Why is there such disparity between the responses to similar behaviour by two different genders?

That question won't be answered anytime in the near future and defi-

nitely not in my column.

Instead, I would like to draw a comparison between the treatment of promiscuous men in Canadian and Spanish cultures. Because in Spain, a man who seeks many partners is not called a player, but is referred to as *el pulpo*.

Pulpo translates to octopus. The Spanish octopus has his tentacles all over the females in his general vicinity. He keeps women (or men) interested with close talking and perty manoeuvres, like subtle boob or crotch touching. His interest lies in trying to score an easy lay for the night, or at least a phone number.

Another classic characteristic of the player and of *el pulpo* is their inability to know when enough is clearly more than enough. They are known to follow their targets around, even home from the bar, and not desist until a drastic 'no' is communicated from the person they are interested in - such as a swift knee to the junk.

El pulpo really is just an annoying SOB. In Salamanca, his obnoxiousness can be characterised by the presence of leather accessories, cheap cologne and of course, a luxurious mullet. He is constantly pres-

ent and constantly on the prowl.

But what's interesting is that Spanish people have properly labelled this sexual pest with a more negative term. Here in Canada, we like to praise the player with positive labels.

Being a player doesn't make you cool, nor does it make you any more sexually attractive. For example, if you continue on with a player lifestyle for a substantial period of time, it will eventually come back and bite you in the proverbial ass. People will start to know you as the guy (or girl) who fucked so and so, her, him, their neighbour, etc., giving you a reputation to last a lifetime - peachy isn't it?

To those of you who find yourselves continuously falling for players' lame ass tactics and sayings designed to get you into their bed and then out of it, I say fight back. And don't give them the prideful label of player, either. Take a lesson from Spain and call them out on their slimy, grabby tentacles.

Please send me something to work with: ideas, comments, questions, concerns, criticism or anything to sex@dalgazette.ca

I stand out.

Mitch Martel

Full-time laboratory technician and part-time Bachelor of Science student at Athabasca University.

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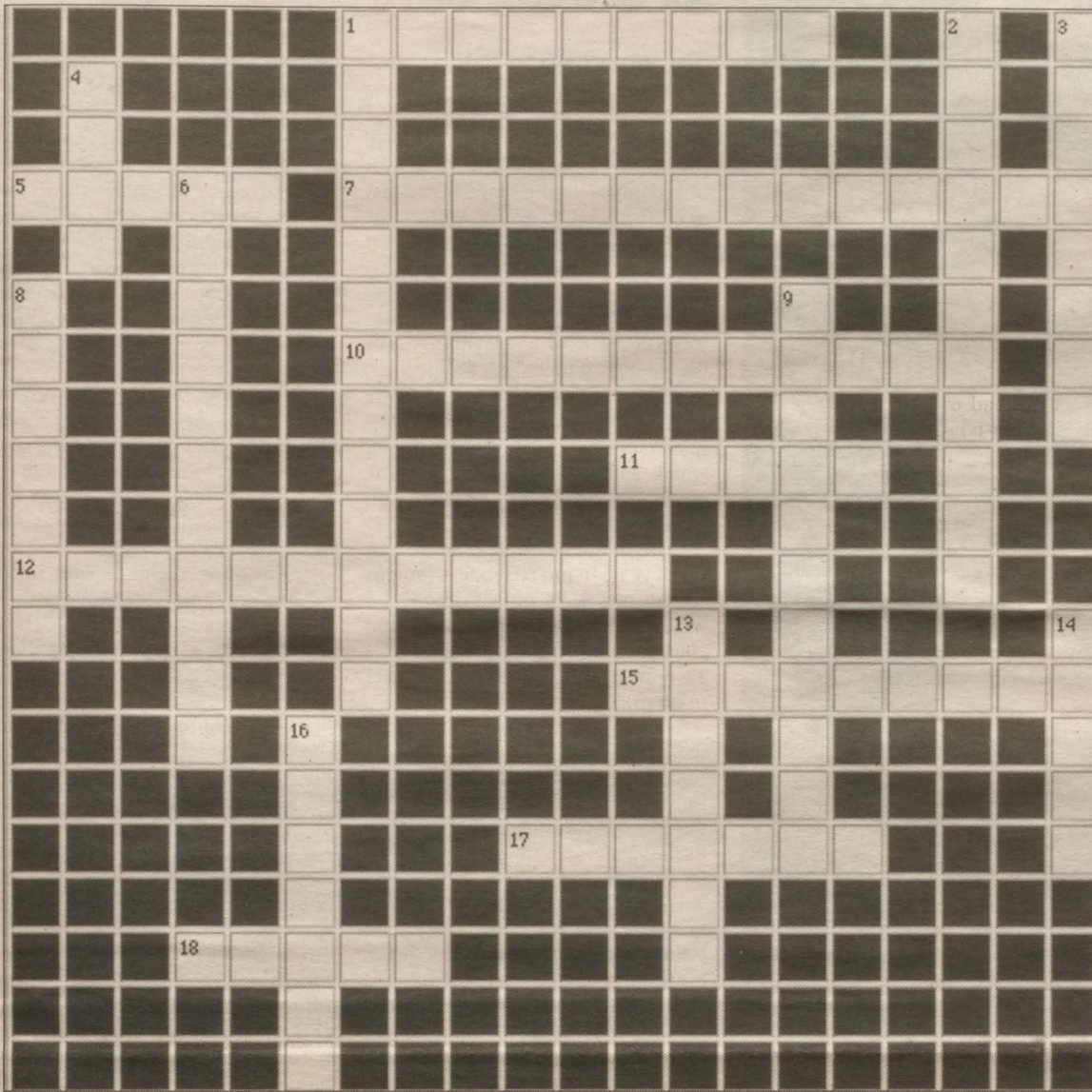
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Lucky there's a *Family Guy*



Across

- 1. The *Family Guy* equivalent of Duff Beer
- 5. When Peter swallows several nickels, what does he become?
- 7. The local bar
- 10. Where does Stewie live in the future?
- 11. Quagmire's profession
- 12. In what state do the Griffins live?
- 15. Who fathers Seabreeze's puppies?
- 17. What is Brian's drink of choice?
- 18. Who stole the Drunken Clam trophy?

Down

- 1. Lois' maiden name
- 2. Who does Chris live in fear of?
- 3. Who is the mayor of Quahog?
- 4. "Damn you _____ woman!"
- 6. Who is in love with Meg?
- 8. "_____ is mine!"
- 9. Before being invited to be a part of the Beautiful People's club, how did Peter lose weight?
- 13. Cleveland's wife
- 14. Cleveland's last name
- 16. "Giggidy, _____, alright."

HOROSCOPES

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

Looks like sugar, tastes like sugar, but you have been duped. Find out which bear has been stealing your honey and peeing in your porridge. Imagine life sweeter and it will be this year. If you're not careful, Goldie Locks, who ain't so sweet, will try and steal your thunder. Just remember, you are legend.



SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

The new year dawns and so does your time to go buck. Yes that's right, soon you will be buck wild and free, beyond your wildest dreams. The question is, can you get everything done in time beforehand? Don't let people's questions phase you. You will soon rule the school if you can truly show you're cool. Pop Rocks will shake things up on some idle Tuesday.



CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)

All your worries will end this week. A shift in consciousness will lead to peace of mind and party time. With the sun in Jupiter, you will be feeling extra spicy and all things will taste ricey. That means you will be hot to the touch so be careful who you burn. No one likes having their feelings hurt. The tamale is burning hot. Be quick and take a big juicy bite.



AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)

Tooth bleach not only whitens your teeth but brightens your smile. The holidays are over and school is back. There will be more reasons to smile than you can count. So snap your suspenders, bite into that apple and moonwalk down the street. Fred Flintstone is about to high five you and is expecting a serious yabadabadoo.



PISCES (February 20 - March 20)

Dude looks like a lady. And fruit looks like it's candy. Stick to the New Year's resolutions you made. You promised to finish all your broccoli and to stop swearing at the mail carrier. It's not time to show there is coin where your big mouth is. Turn your iPod off, or you will not be able to hear the person chasing after you; they are trying to confess their love.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

Don't fall into a hole while walking backward this week. Those who love you might not notice you're there, but an unexpected furry friend might, and it's up to you whether he is going to be naughty or nice. In the new year it's best to decide to be nice yourself, especially in crowded areas. Practice martial arts so you can wow the crowd when they get bored. Show them you can snap that board in half with less than your hand.



TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

In the past year something funky has been going on, and not just in the grilled cheese they have been serving you. But with a new year comes a fresh start, with fresh breath and fresh vegetables. Be sure to floss and the rest will follow. That even includes the fairy godmother you have been missing. But that does not mean your instant karma's gone. It just means you finally know better.



GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You rang in the new year by putting time in where it matters most. Not just putting time in where it matters most to you. That's right, it's time for fun. It is go time. And this time you're not going to crack your back doing it. So go out there and be as strong as you want to be with all the confidence you need. You are as hip as the dude in the port-o-potty at Woodstock. Show them why.



CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The new year will only bring good things to you. You have struck gold with the stars. Stars won't only be shooting in the sky, but from your eyes and mouth as well. You will practically be vomiting Lucky Charms. In a metaphorical way. Don'tchya dare wish that your friend was hot like...



LEO (July 24 - August 23)

Your feet stink. Go clean or at least go green. Be active in your body and in your mind. Make like a tree, not a car. You have been chilly and that's because you have been ignoring your morals. Winter's here and your resolutions are not going to keep you warm. But a nice a froshy might. Did I say froshy? I meant frosty. Spit your gum out. It no longer has any flavour.



VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)

Make sure to always clean your lint filter in the new year. You're wasting energy not only in your home but in your body. You have been skiing uphill, but seem to be sliding backwards. Oprah knows best but she does not know all. The frying pan you're using to kill that fly is too big and will only end up killing your favorite dish. Why not open a window instead?



LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)

'Tis the new year and 'tis time to give back. You Libras seem to always think me, me, me. But this year the tables are gonna be turned upside down. Surprise a beast friend and you will receive buckets of metaphorical jewels in return. Things tend to always go your way. Wouldn't you like to keep it that way? Letting someone dip their fry in your ketchup will look great on your resumé.



Martina Jakubchik-Paloheimo

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- DOWN
1. Pawtucket
5. Blind
7. The Drunken Clam
10. San Francisco
11. Pilot
12. Rhode Island
15. Tom Tucker
17. Martini
18. Brian

Crossword Answers:

Tigers steamroll Huskies in three-game winning streak

JULIE SOBOWALE
SPORTS EDITOR

The new year is looking bright so far for the Dalhousie Tigers women's basketball team with their last three of four games ending in victory. The Tigers easily defeated the St. Mary's University Huskies 74-49 and the Cape Breton University Capers 69-57.

In the Huskies match-up, the Tigers quickly took control with a 20-8 first-quarter lead. From there on, the Huskies' offence never came close. The Tigers shot over 56 per cent in field goal range, compared to only 27 per cent from the Huskies.

Laurie Girdwood had an outstanding performance with 23 points and two blocks. She was named Player of the Game.

"I'm having a great season this year," Girdwood says. "In the first semester, I had bronchitis so my performance wasn't that great, but now I'm coming back to good form. I guess that all comes back to being patient and taking good shots."

The Capers game challenged the Tigers. The Capers are ranked 10th in Canada and are the 2006 Atlantic University Sport (AUS) champions. After falling behind early in the first quarter, a three-pointer from Britany Sullivan put the Tigers in the lead. Once again, the Tigers outshot their competition with a 45 per cent from field goal range compared to a dismal 25 per cent from the Capers. Girdwood again was the Tigers' leading scorer with 22 points. Her efforts put her in seventh overall in scoring in the AUS.

"It all comes back to good defence," Girdwood says. "We have really good communication on the court, and we know when we need to pick up our intensity."

The Tigers started off 2008 with a loss against the undefeated, defending AUS champions, the Memorial University Sea-Hawks. The Sea-Hawks are ranked third in Canada



JOHN PACKMAN / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Laurie Girdwood had an outstanding performance with 23 points and two blocks. She was named Player of the Game.

and are considered one of the main contenders for a national championship. Last year the Sea-Hawks defeated the Tigers for the bronze medal at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championships.

Already halfway through the season, the Tigers are in a good position to fight for an AUS title. Currently, they sit third in the AUS rankings, behind the Sea-Hawks and the Capers. Their perfect 3-0 record at the Huskies Invitational last December

followed by their recent wins, gives the Tigers a boost for their upcoming three-game road series.

"We had a little bump in the road with Moncton, but we're definitely back on track and off to a good start," Girdwood says. "We're starting to play better and we're getting everyone some play time, which is good. I don't think we have peaked in our performance yet. When we get to first place in the rankings, this will be a big moment for us."

Pro athletes become poor actors

JOE WOLFOND
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Sitting through Roger Clemens' painfully predictable interview with Mike Wallace in the Jan. 6 broadcast of *60 Minutes* was excruciating. Supposedly, the viewers were expected to believe him as he continually responded to the steroid allegations made against him by former trainer Brian McNamee by saying, "never happened...it just never happened."

Over and over, viewers were forced to listen to that masterfully-constructed counterargument, which surprisingly did not become any more convincing the more Clemens repeated it.

Forget the fact that at age 45, after 24 years in pro baseball, Clemens still throws a 94-mph fastball and won his seventh Cy Young Award in 2004 for outstanding pitching as a 42-year-old (the oldest pitcher ever to do so).

Forget that he refused to comment after former U.S. Senator George Mitchell gave him the opportunity to make a statement following the release of his Major League Baseball steroids report (which listed Clemens among 86 former and current players). Forget the fact that he has brushed off the idea of taking a lie-detector test that might prove his innocence.

Consider this: When McNamee faced federal charges for his involvement in steroids, prosecutors agreed to drop the charges if he revealed the names of the players he supplied steroids to. He had no reason to lie about anything in the Mitchell Report. In fact, he had an incentive to tell the truth, as the prosecutors said he would be charged for supplying any false information.

While Clemens couldn't explain why McNamee would lie, he did offer something of a rebuttal: "If he's doing that to me, I should have a third ear coming out of my forehead. I should be pulling tractors with my teeth."

If nothing else, it's safe to say that Clemens won't be exonerated based on the lack of a third ear on his forehead. In watching the interview, which produced responses that were completely unpersuasive, often to a comedic degree, it became apparent just how low Roger has sunk. The once-respected pitcher and legendary baseball icon has been reduced to an unconvincing, pitiful actor.

The saddest part of the whole Clemens debacle is that we've come to expect the same kind of charade from professional athletes anytime something threatens to tarnish their magnanimous reputations. It has become a disturbing pattern.

Whether it's an insincere apology, a plea of ignorance, or a flat-out denial, we've seen this so many times

before, Pete Rose (gambling), Barry Bonds (steroids), Michael Vick (dog fighting), Reggie Bush (accepting bribes), and Marion Jones (steroids), to name a few, have all followed the same tired and familiar script.

In general, pro athletes haven't been doing much over the years to inspire our faith in them as honest human beings. As if their misdemeanors alone weren't bad enough, now they have been tagged as shameless liars as well.

It's almost unfair to the professionals who may find themselves in this position in the future. Because of the number of athletes who have lied about their indiscretions, our natural inclination will be to distrust anything they have to say.

One thing Clemens said in his *60 Minutes* interview was entirely true: "I don't know if I can defend myself...a lot of people have already made their decisions...Guilty before innocent."

He's absolutely right, and he can thank his fraudulent predecessors for that. Now future athletes under scrutiny will have Clemens to thank as well.

More likely, however, is that while athlete's salaries and bonuses continue to increase, they will continue to look for every competitive advantage they can find, even if it means taking banned substances. The career of a pro athlete is so much shorter than that of the average person, and when so much money hangs in the balance, prolonging it becomes a primary concern.

In a sports market where youth is prized, why wouldn't an aging star want to take steroids so they might extend their career a little longer? Sports injuries also drastically reduce a player's value, so can we really blame a player for taking steroids to reduce their recovery time?

What else should we have expected of Clemens? As he is apparently in the twilight of his career, right in the middle of baseball's steroid era, steroids seem like a good way to keep pace in a league full of juiced-up hitters.

What we're left with now is a troubling uncertainty and plenty of unanswered questions - questions about how deep the steroid problem in baseball might run, and what other sports might also be currently be affected by it.

More athletes will likely be fingered as steroid users in the future. Who knows whose seemingly indelible reputation might be in jeopardy next? What if it were Sidney Crosby? What would happen to the game of hockey then?

And more importantly, if he were to deny any accusations, would anyone believe him for an instant? Maybe we should ask Roger Clemens.

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The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is committed to excellence in teaching. It has established a teaching award that honors, each year, a faculty member who has made an outstanding contribution to teaching and serving the students of the Faculty. This award is intended above all to underline the fundamental importance of first-rate and innovative pedagogy.

Candidates nominated for the award must be on-going Arts and Social Sciences members of the Dalhousie University teaching staff. Sessional and part-time lecturers will be considered but must have taught at least two consecutive years. Faculty nominated for the University Alumni Award for Teaching Excellence are also eligible for nomination for the Arts and Social Sciences Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Nominations should be signed by at least three students or staff members, and should include evidence of teaching excellence. This will vary, but might include letters from sponsors summarizing the evidence justifying the nomination, results of student evaluation questionnaires, pedagogical publications of the candidate, confidential letters of support from colleagues and/or former students, evidence of innovative pedagogy and of service to the Faculty or the outside community. Nomination forms are available at the office of the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences. Please contact 494-1439 for more information.

The recipient will be recognized by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Nominations and documents supporting them should be sent to the Selection Committee for the Excellence in Teaching Award, Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS B3H 4P9.

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THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

Georgeosis Bushitis affects Sexton campus

A DISGRUNTLED ENGINEER

Sexton campus has a disease. The name is Georgeosis Bushitis, the symptoms of which are common and widespread these days and include: empty promises, poor communication, laziness, ineptitude, unwillingness to change and a general lack of support for the student body.

Although all schools may have some of these symptoms, Georgeosis Bushitis only becomes problematic when all symptoms appear concurrently. This disease is widespread here at Sexton campus and its symptoms are affecting everyone.

Once the disease finds a willing host it's very hard to get rid of. So, are there any known cures? Yes, take your head out of your ass! Georgeosis Bushitis thrives by riding the circle of bullshit in its hosts.

I first noticed the symptoms back in late August when I heard a rumour that the DSEUS and DEUS were planning this mysterious "O-Day". Of course the student body did not know about the event as it was meant to be a surprise for them.

The organizers worked very hard to plan the event and even managed to get the Dean of Engineering's approval to cancel classes for "O-Day". Everything was coming together nicely.

There was only one problem, however. Someone forgot/neglected to tell the faculty and departments of the plans for "O-Day". Naturally, there was uproar when Profs found out at the last minute and you could almost hear them all mumbling "... those fucking students tried to do this stupid event at the last minute. When will they learn?..."

Truth is that the organizers did everything they could to get the Dean's Office to notify the departments, but that didn't happen. All in all the day was a resounding success and it was great to see all of the students out on the field listening to live music, eating some grub and seeing all the amazing student projects and organizations out on display.

And who could forget those two fools who dyed their bodies purple with industrial dye and pranced around in Speedos all day? How many days did it take for that dye to finally fade? By far the best part of the day was the free "Dal Eng" shirts provided by the generosity of Shell.

I love mine and wear it proudly and I know the Industrials love their forest green shirts, the Chemicals love their yellow ones, and those Mechanicals sure do look nice in pink! But what did the Dean think of these shirts? He commented that it was

the biggest waste of money he's ever seen, although I doubt you'll ever get him to admit that.

I then noticed the symptoms getting worse when I heard about the new "Student Study Space," which according to Dal's website was officially opened in early September. Guess what? The renovations haven't even started yet!

The room is currently occupied by two ping-pong tables, a foosball table, some couches and chairs, EnginBEERING on Friday afternoons and the occasional passed out bum. Again, the students had the plans completed and approved well in advance with a promise that the room would be complete for the beginning of the Fall semester.

Obviously this did not happen and the most recent information indicates that the room will be completed by March. So what happened here? Well, despite the many meetings between the students, faculty and facilities management, the plans sat on a desk for the entire summer. This project supposedly had a high priority rating, so I can't imagine what happens to low priority projects.

I could go on for a while, but I fear my word count is climbing too high. Perhaps my rants will appear in future issues of the Sextant.

Sextant better than homework, says Sextant

MELANIE HOLMES
SEXTANT EDITOR

For those of you that were around to catch my send-off last term, I hope you survived the caffeine intake, finals and the weather, and that you have returned refreshed, revived and rejuvenated.

Holidays, despite being so wildly anticipated, always seem to be somewhat daunting when confronted with family, festive sweaters, checking grades (whether you're a bite-the-bullet or an eyes-half-closed-maybe-I'll-check-later scroller) and the inevitable return to class or co-op.

I'm not sure about the rest of you,

but it seems as though the powers that be have decided that Chemicals in their final semester finally deserve a bit of a break, at least with regards to class times.

With half the class raring to go, and the other half basking in the joy of afternoon naps, we find ourselves slightly in awe of the arts-like schedule we see before us. I apologize, but it's the only analogy that truly fits.

Whether this semester appears as though it is about to put you through the academic wringer, or whether you're finding it surprisingly hard to decide when today's nap is going to take place, I hope you find yourselves making the best of it.

And whether or not this is the case I invite you to share your thoughts, feelings, observations or simple need for attention by contributing to your faculty newspaper.

Straight up, we hope to have some great things happen in 2008 and we need your help. Last but not least we need a new team for 2008-2009. If you would like to get involved in any capacity please drop us a line at sextant@dal.ca.

So remember, if your room is clean and redesigned, the dishes are done, and the afternoon nap is coming to an end, writing to the Sextant is still better than homework.

Jimmy Swift Band Plays Sexton Campus

JOEL ROBITAILLE
SEXTON CAMPUS ENTERTAINMENT DIRECTOR

The Halifax native band is coming back to Dal and is ready to rock the T-Room like you've never seen before! They come fully prepared with 3 East Coast Music Awards and 3 Music Industry Association of Nova Scotia Awards, including Artist of the Year.

The Jimmy Swift Band was born of the now defunct PF Station, a landmark on the Halifax music scene. Since their transformation, the band which consists of Craig Mercer on guitar and vocals, Mike MacDougall on bass, Aaron Collier on keyboards and effects, and Nick Wombolt on drums, has been playing and impro-



vising at regular shows.

The result is that they have become very in sync and fans suggest they have developed a style all of

their own. The style incorporates rock grooves with improvisational layers. It has been given the moniker Rocktronica.

On Thursday the 24th everyone will have the opportunity to see the Jimmy Swift Band descend onto the T-Room with their high-energy show. Anew Airship, who played at the T-Room earlier this year, will also be on hand for the event.

Students are warned that it may be very hot in the T-Room that night as the capacity of the bar has been expanded to 350 people, thanks to a liquor license variance attained complete with the opening of the outside patio.

Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door.

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SUBJECT TO CLASSIFICATION

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DAL TIGERS

CATCH THE ACTION!

FRI., JAN. 18

MEN'S HOCKEY vs. STU, 7:00PM

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL AUS/QSSF

INTERLOCK TOURNAMENT

SAT., JAN. 19

MEN'S HOCKEY vs. UPEI, 7:00PM

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL AUS/QSSF

INTERLOCK TOURNAMENT

SUN., JAN. 20

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL AUS/QSSF

INTERLOCK TOURNAMENT

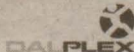
WED., JAN. 23

MEN'S HOCKEY vs. ACA, 7:00PM

THURS., JAN. 24

WOMEN'S HOCKEY vs. SMU, 7:00PM

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Questions, Comments and to Contribute sextant@dal.ca



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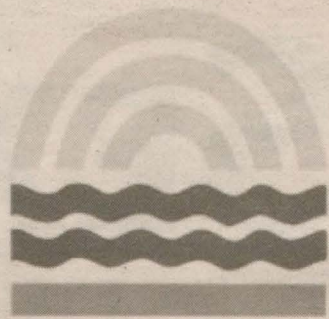
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